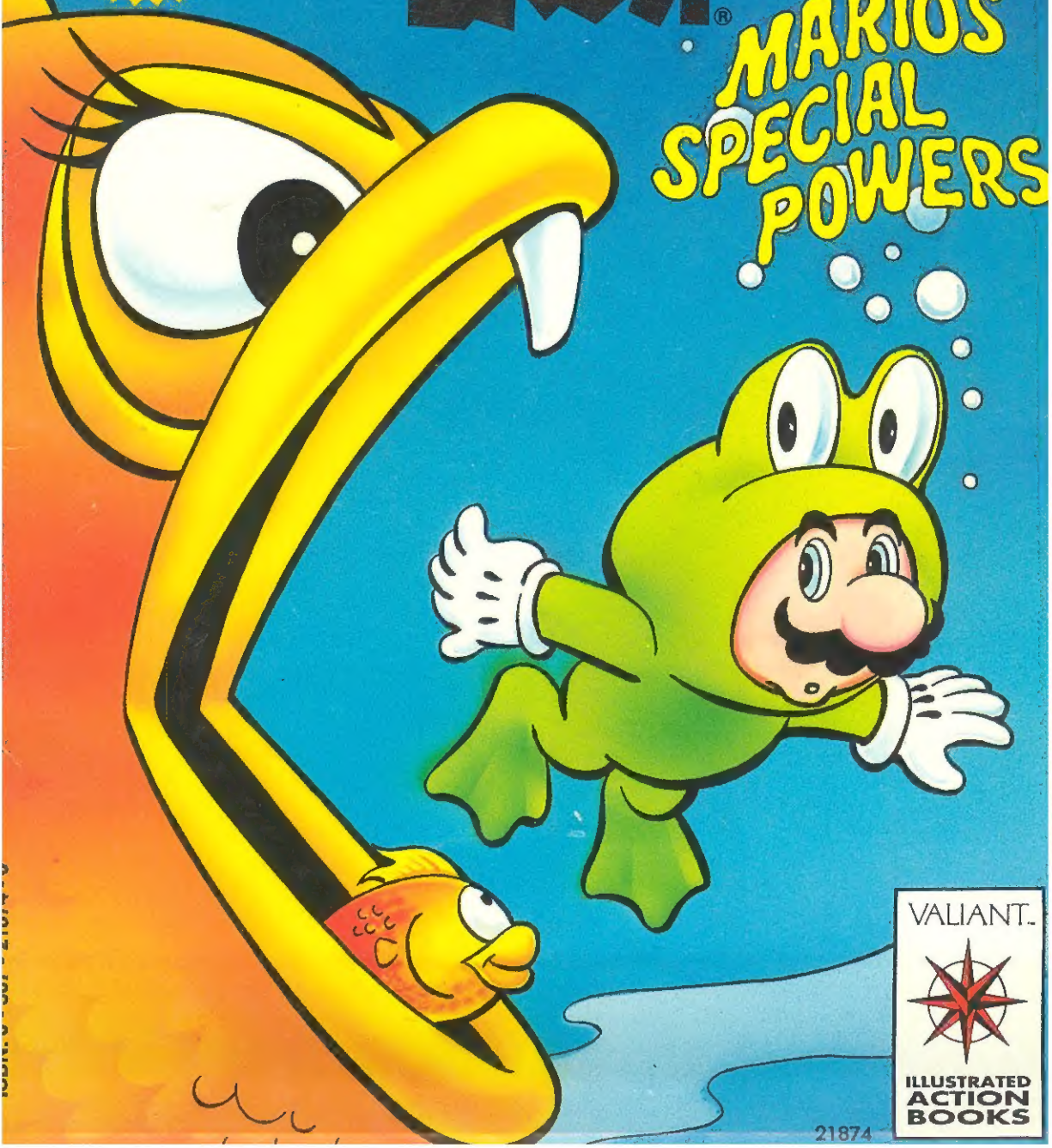
SUPER MARIO BROS.®

Official Nintendo Licensed Product

MARIO'S SPECIAL POWERS



VALIANT™

ILLUSTRATED ACTION BOOKS

21874

MARIO'S SPECIAL POWERS

VALIANT™

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Edited by Laura Hitchcock

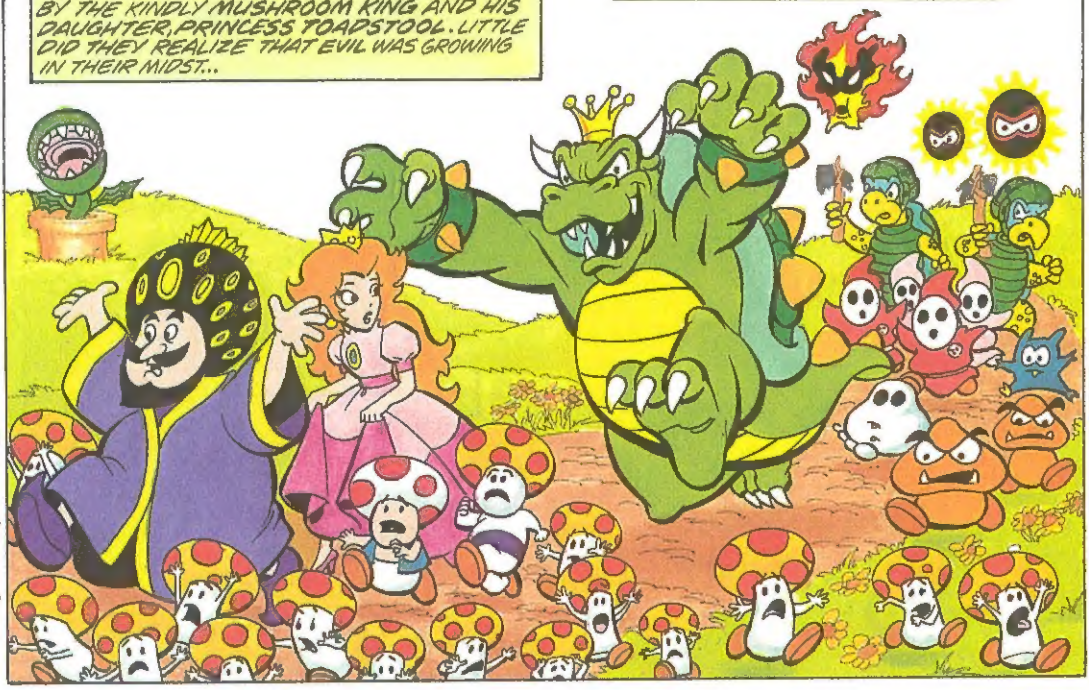
Printed in the United States of America

By George Caragonne, Art Nichols, Jade, P. Zorito and Janet Jackson

THE LEGEND

FAR BEYOND THE WORLD WE KNOW LIES THE MAGICAL MUSHROOM KINGDOM. THERE, THE MUSHROOM PEOPLE LIVED IN PEACE, RULED BY THE KINDLY MUSHROOM KING AND HIS DAUGHTER, PRINCESS TOADSTOOL. LITTLE DID THEY REALIZE THAT EVIL WAS GROWING IN THEIR MIDST...

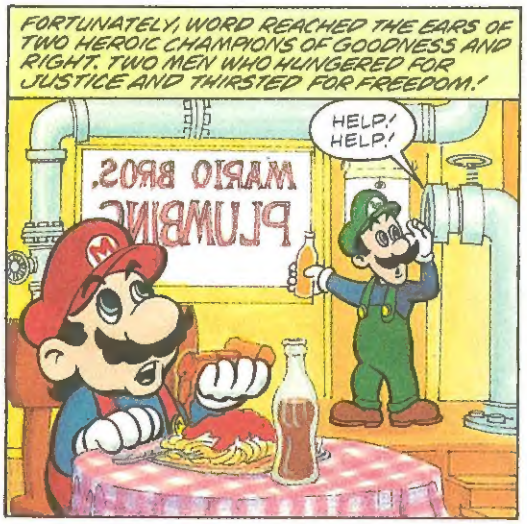
THE FREEDOM-LOVING FUNGI WERE MENACED BY THE FORCES OF TYRANNY!

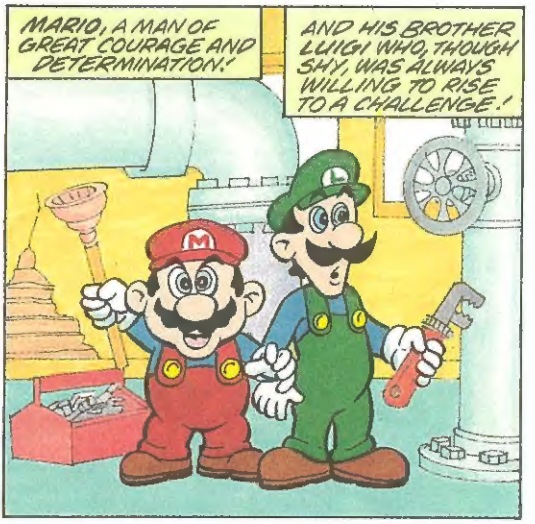


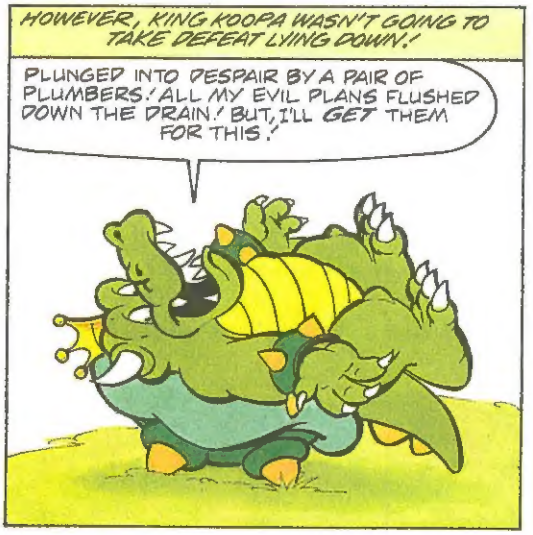
THE BIGGEST TROUBLEMAKER WAS A REVOLTING REPTILE AND A DESPICABLE DESPOT--THAT CALLOUS, COLD-BLOODED CREEP, KING BOWSER KOOPA.

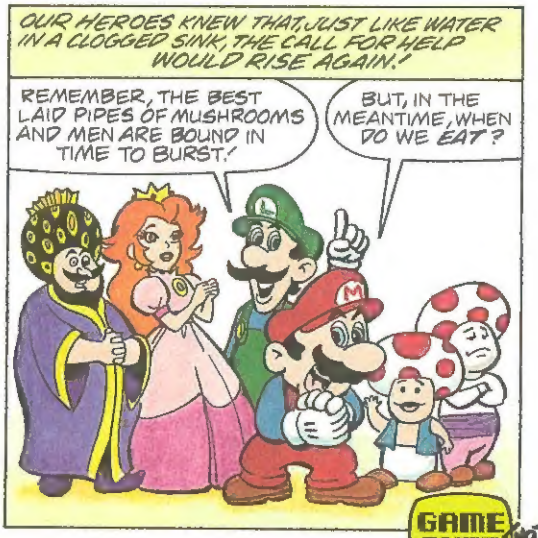
TOAD, THE ROYAL MUSHROOM RETAINER, WONDERED..."WHO WOULD SAVE THE KINGDOM?"

THE KIND, GENTLE, DEMURE PRINCESS TOADSTOOL CALLED FOR HELP.









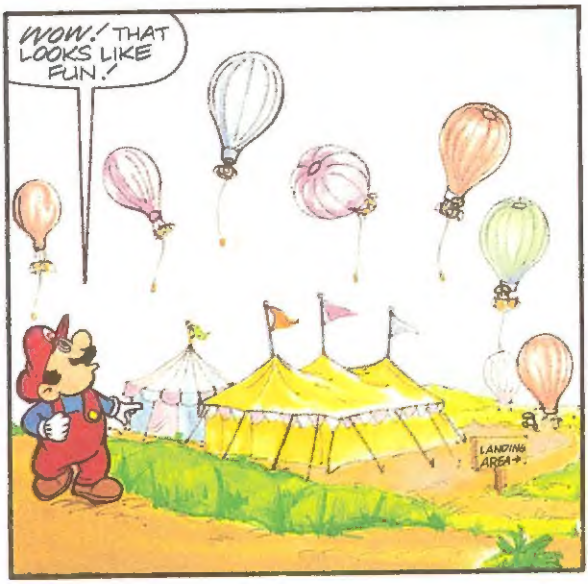
GAME OVER NOT

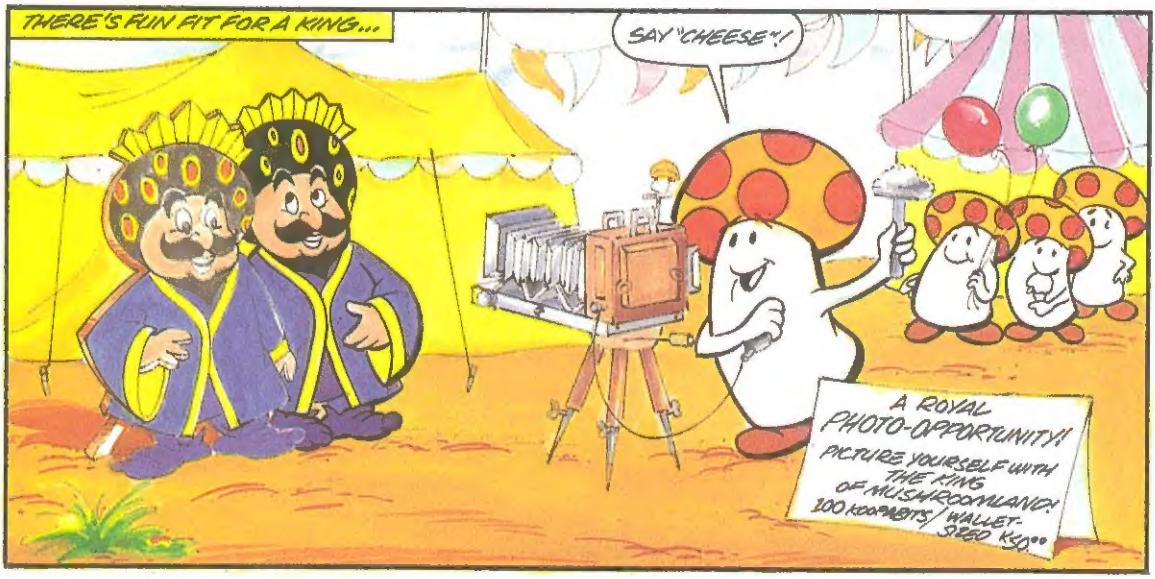
By John Walker, Dan Danglo, P. Zorito, Jade, Rainbowhead

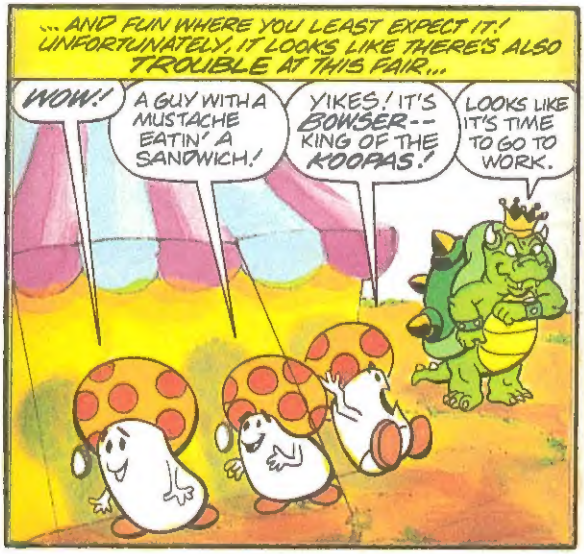
BANNER UP! WHAT'S NEXT, MARIO?

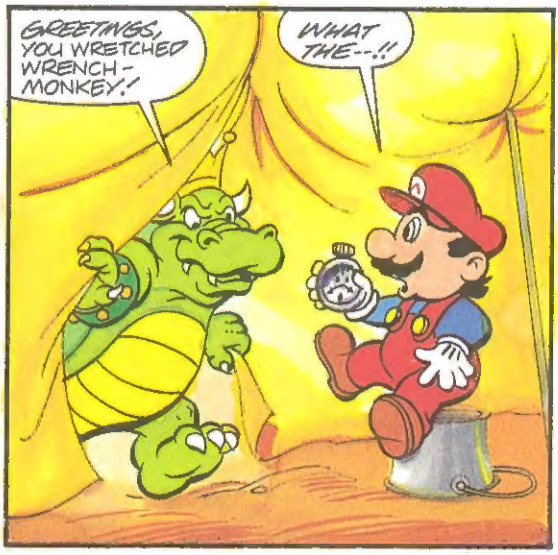
LUNCH BREAK, LUIGI! MEET ME BACK AT THE TENT IN HALF AN HOUR!

'IT'S ALWAYS FAIR WEATHER'




THERE'S FUN FIT FOR A KING...
SAY "CHEESE"!
A ROYAL PHOTO-OPPORTUNITY!
PICTURE YOURSELF WITH THE KING OF MUSHROOMLAND!
200 KOOPABITS/ WALLET-SIZED KOOPS


... AND FUN WHERE YOU LEAST EXPECT IT! UNFORTUNATELY, IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S ALSO TROUBLE AT THIS FAIR...
WOW!
A GUY WITH A MUSTACHE EATIN' A SANDWICH!
YIKES! IT'S BOWSER-- KING OF THE KOOPAS!
LOOKS LIKE IT'S TIME TO GO TO WORK.

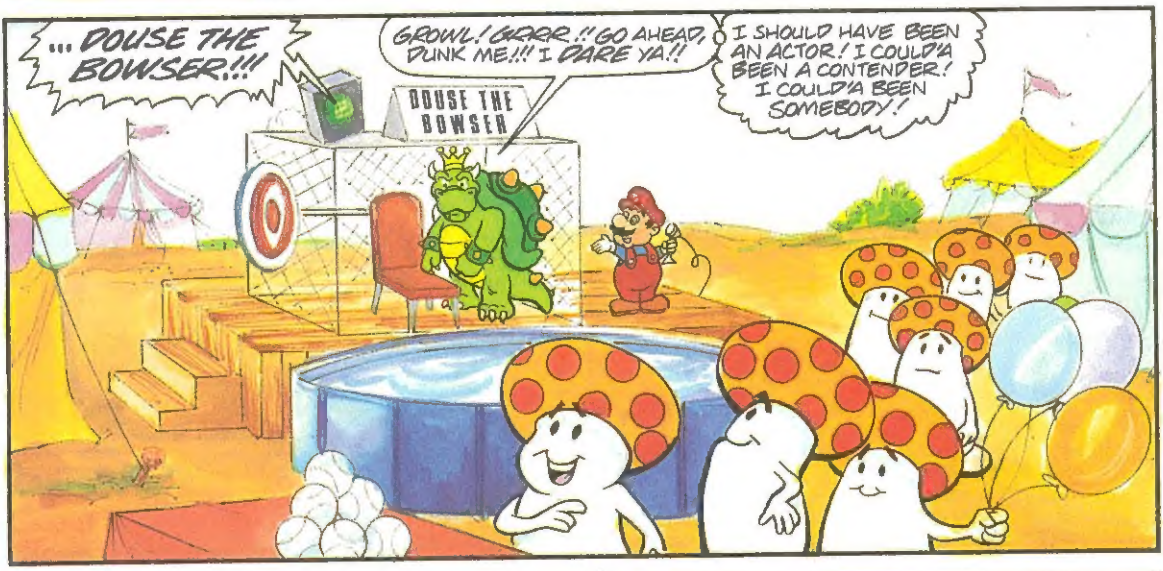

GREETINGS, YOU WRETCHED WRENCH-MONKEY!
WHAT THE--!!

YOU'RE TEN MINUTES LATE!

SORRY, MARIO! I HAD A HECK OF A TIME PINNING ON MY TAIL!

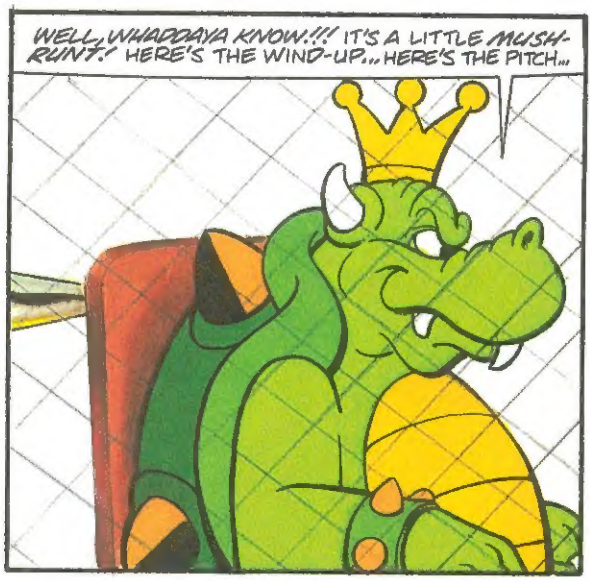
WELL, HURRY UP! IT'S TIME TO GET THE SHOW ON THE ROAD!

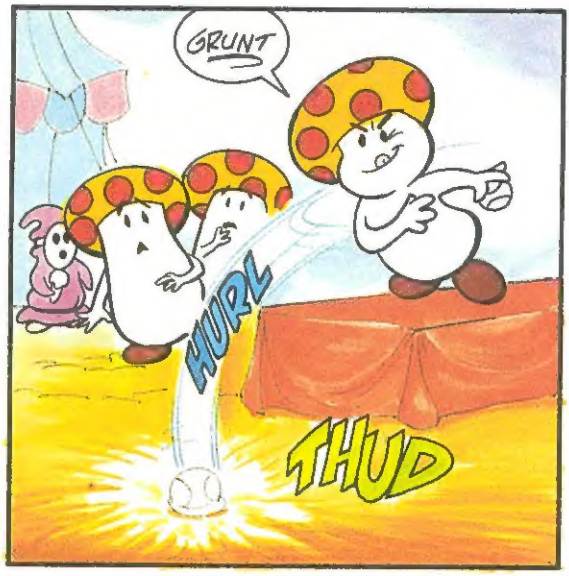
THIS IS THE PART I HATE!
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! THE MOMENT YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR! IT'S TIME TO...


... DOUSE THE BOWSER!!!
GROWL! GRRR!! GO AHEAD, DUNK ME!!! I DARE YA!!
DOUSE THE BOWSER
I SHOULD HAVE BEEN AN ACTOR! I COULD'A BEEN A CONTENDER! I COULD'A BEEN SOMEBODY!

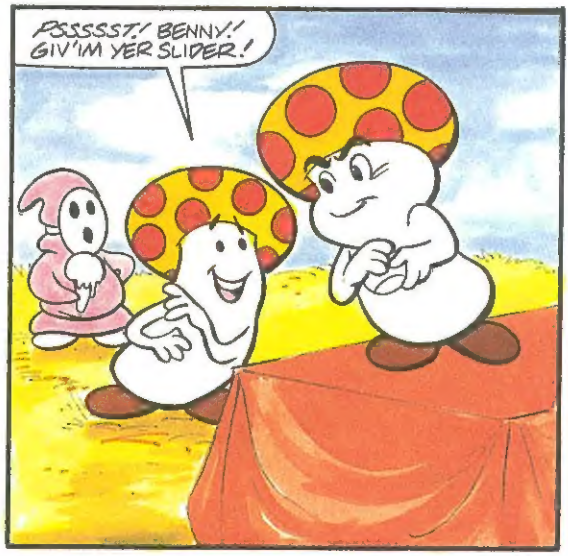
STEP RIGHT THIS WAY, FOLKS! THREE THROWS FOR ONLY FIFTY KOOPABITS!

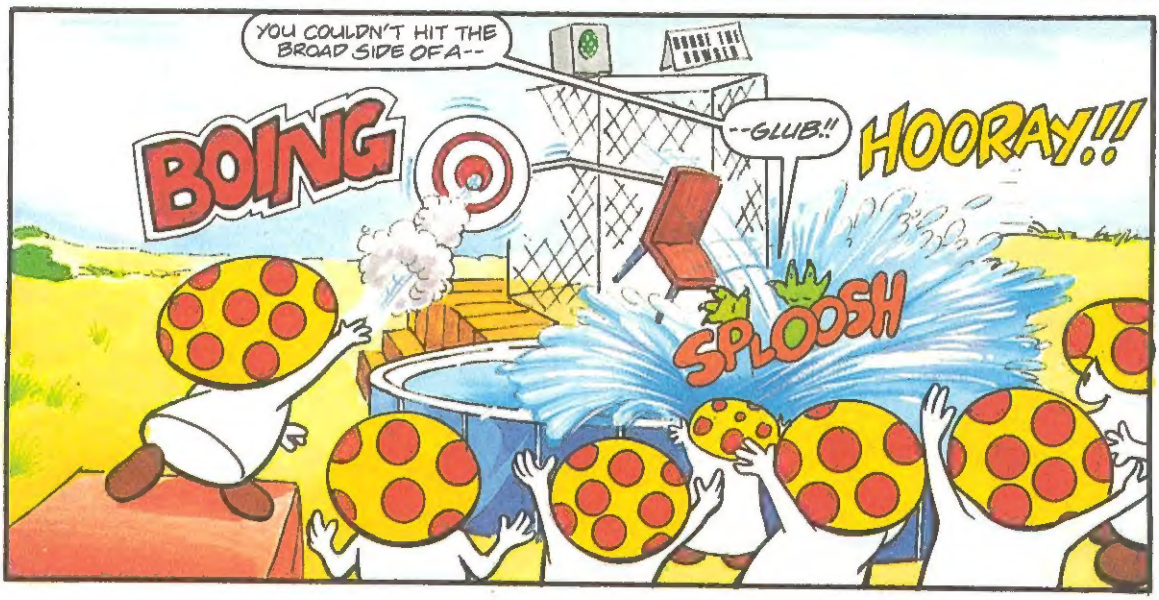
GIMME THREE!
YES, SIR!


WELL, WHADDAYA KNOW!!! IT'S A LITTLE MUSH-RUNT! HERE'S THE WIND-UP... HERE'S THE PITCH...


GRUNT
HURL
THUD

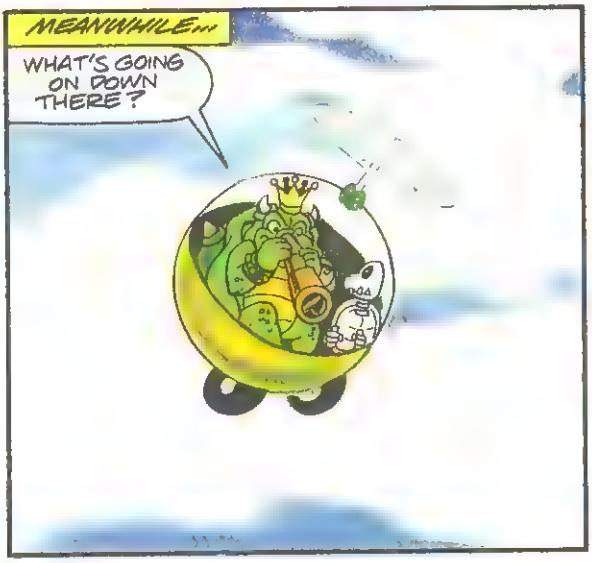
NYAH-NYAH-NYAH! YA MUTHA WEARS A SHYGUY MASK!
SO DOES MINE!

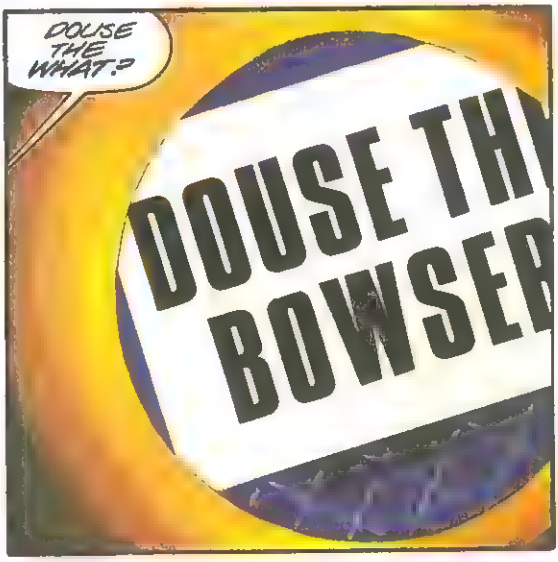

PSSSSST! BENNY! GIV'IM YER SLIDER!

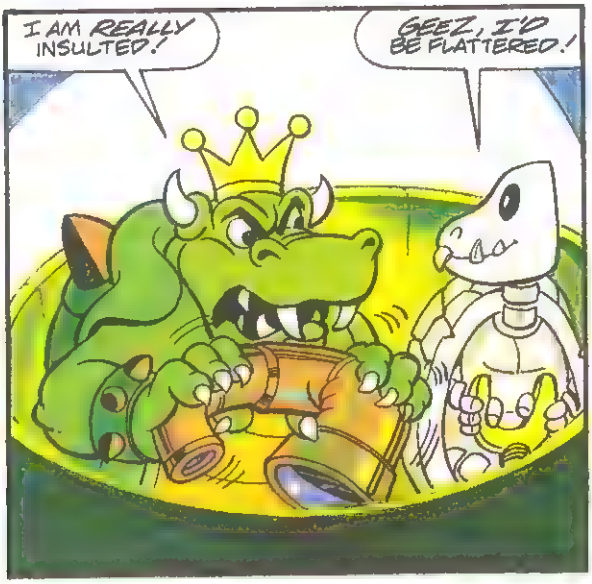

YOU COULDN'T HIT THE BROAD SIDE OF A--
--GLUB!!
BOING
HOORAY!!
SPLOOSH

Ptooie!
I'D SAY YOU MADE QUITE A SPLASH, LUIGI... I MEAN BOWSER!

WELL, GOTTA RUN! IT'S TIME TO JUDGE THE CAKE COMPETITION!
;SIGH;... AND I CHOSE THIS INSTEAD!

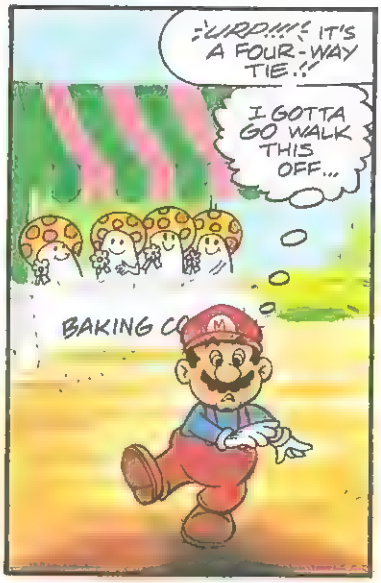

MEANWHILE...
WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE?

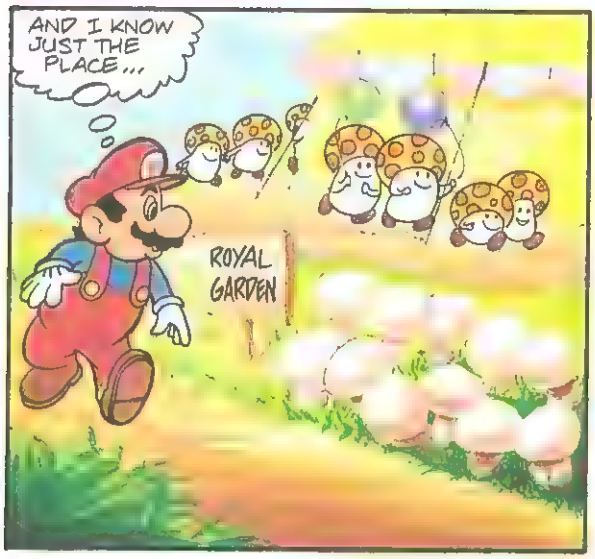

DOUSE THE WHAT?
DOUSE TH
BOWSER

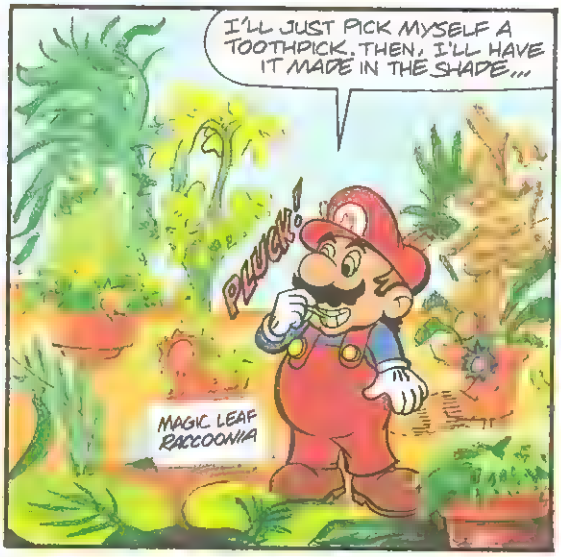

I AM REALLY INSULTED!
GEEZ, I'D BE FLATTERED!

YEAH? WELL, THEY'RE GONNA BE FLATTENED! KING BOWSER KOOPA IS NOBODY'S FAIR GAME!

I KEEP FORGETTING... YOU'RE ONLY SUPPOSED TO TASTE THEM!
DOUBLE FUNGUS FUDGE CAKE
20-POUND POUND CAKE
STRAWBERRY SPONGE CAKE
CHEESY EGG SURPRISE CAKE
BAKING CONTEST

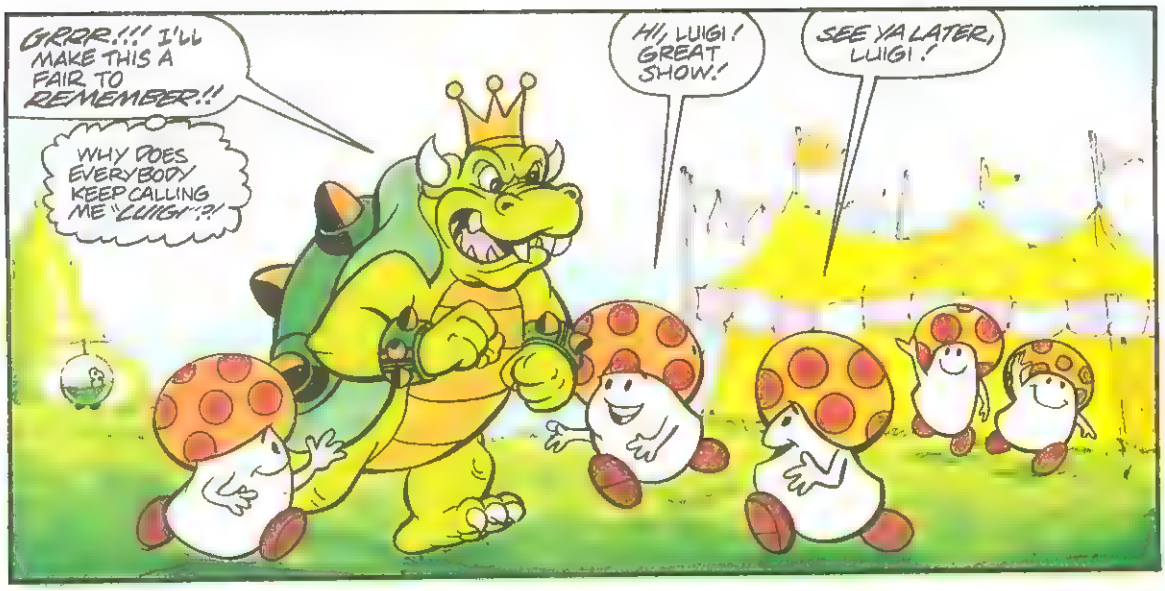

WOW!!! IT'S A FOUR-WAY TIE!!
I GOTTA GO WALK THIS OFF...
BAKING C

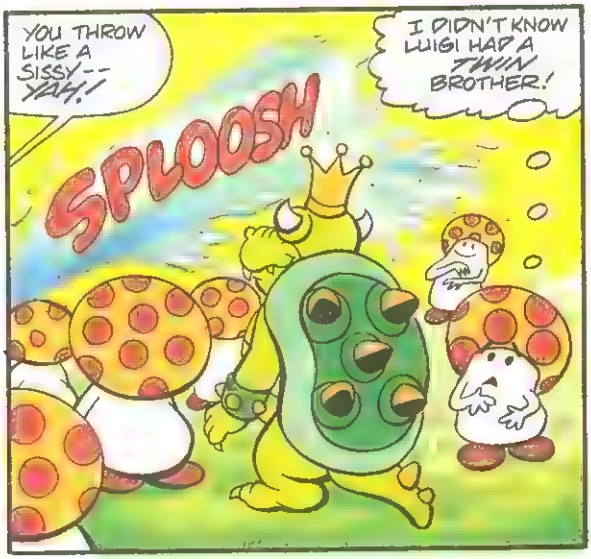

AND I KNOW JUST THE PLACE...
ROYAL GARDEN


I'LL JUST PICK MYSELF A TOOTHPICK. THEN, I'LL HAVE IT MADE IN THE SHADE...
PLUCK!
MAGIC LEAF RACCOONIA

IT OUGHTA BE NICE AND COOL IN HERE...
HMM... WONDER WHAT KIND OF LEAF THIS IS? IT TASTES FUNNY! I HOPE IT'S NOT POISON IVY!
I WONDER HOW THEY DO THIS?
FUN HOUSE

BOY, I'VE NEVER SEEN A FUN-HOUSE MIRROR LIKE THIS BEFORE!
I'VE GOT TO GET ONE OF THESE FOR THE CASTLE.

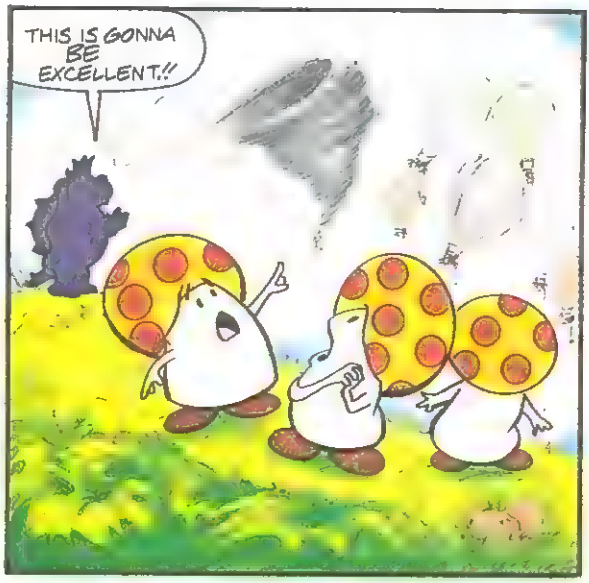

GRRR!!! I'LL MAKE THIS A FAIR TO REMEMBER!!
WHY DOES EVERYBODY KEEP CALLING ME "LUIGI"?!
HI, LUIGI! GREAT SHOW!
SEE YA LATER, LUIGI!


YOU THROW LIKE A SISSY-- YAH!
I DIDN'T KNOW LUIGI HAD A TWIN BROTHER!
SPLOOSH

THAT REALLY TICKS ME OFF!!!
DON'T EVEN SAY IT!

HMMM...
LANDING AREA

HEH HEH HEH! MY FAVORITE CARNIVAL RIDE WAS ALWAYS... THE CYCLONE!
WHIRRRR
CYCLONE
ON
SWITCH
OFF


THIS IS GONNA BE EXCELLENT!!

MAMA!!
WAH!!

MY BABY!!!
OH, MY!

WHAT'S THAT?!!
WHAT? HAVEN'T YOU EVER SEEN LONG UNDERWEAR BEFORE?
NOT THAT... THAT!!!
FLORA SHOW

SEE YA IN ORBIT, KIDDIES!!!
CYCLONE
ON
OFF

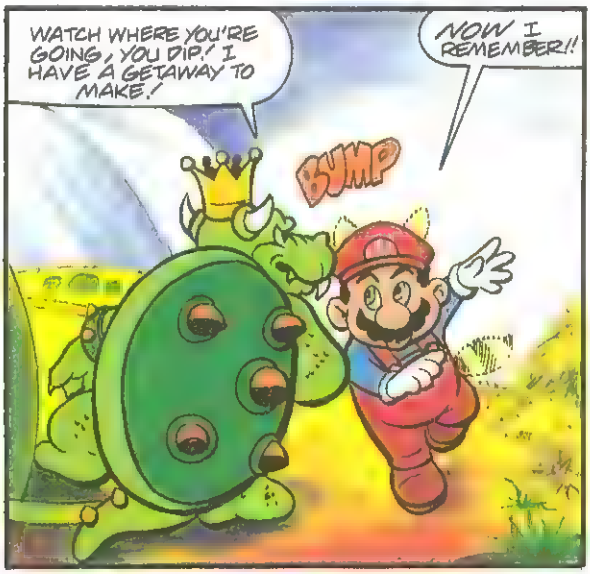
MARIO! DO SOMETHING!!
FUNNY! MARIO'S WEARING A TAIL! THIS MUST BE A FORMAL A-FAIR!
I AM DOING SOMETHING!

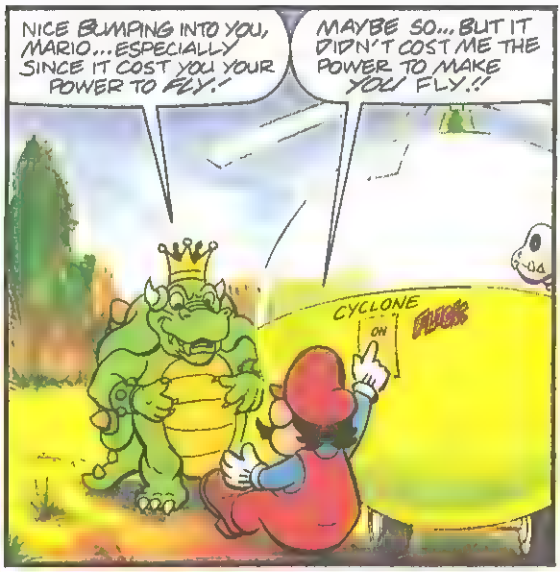
AMAZING! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD FLY!
IT IS AMAZING AFTER EATING ALL THAT CAKE! GUESS IT'S A MATTER OF PROPER EQUIPMENT!

NEVER FEAR... MARIO'S HERE!!!
WOW! WHAT BIG POINTY EARS YOU HAVE, MARIO! AND I LOVE THE MATCHING TAIL!

HOORAY FOR MARIO!
ALL IN A DAY'S WORK...
BUT THE JOB ISN'T FINISHED TILL I TAKE CARE OF THAT INCORRIGIBLE KOOPA!
MY HERO!... SMACK!

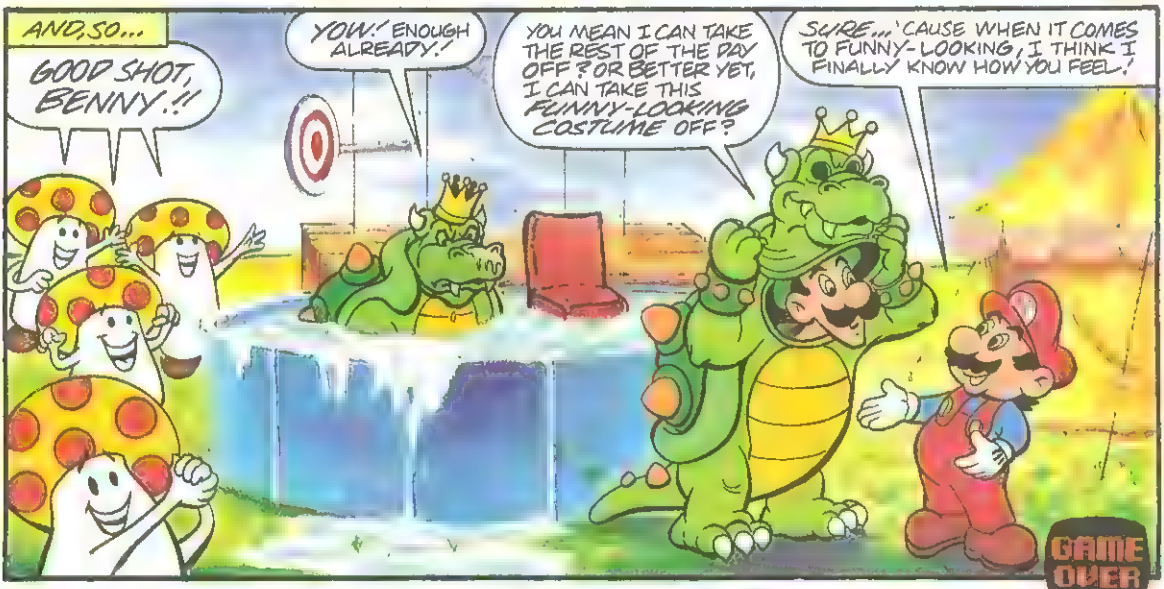
WHAT'S THAT PUDGY PLUMBER UP TO NOW?
WOWEE, WHAT A KISS! I FEEL LIKE I'M WALKING ON AIR!
GEE, I HAD SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO DO... BUT NOW I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS...


WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING, YOU DIP! I HAVE A GETAWAY TO MAKE!
NOW I REMEMBER!!
BUMP


NICE BUMPING INTO YOU, MARIO... ESPECIALLY SINCE IT COST YOU YOUR POWER TO FLY!
MAYBE SO... BUT IT DIDN'T COST ME THE POWER TO MAKE YOU FLY!!
CYCLONE
ON
FLUSH

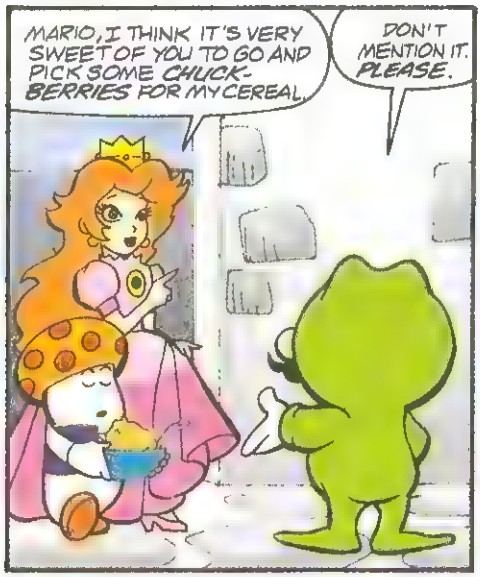
BON VOYAGE, BOWSER!

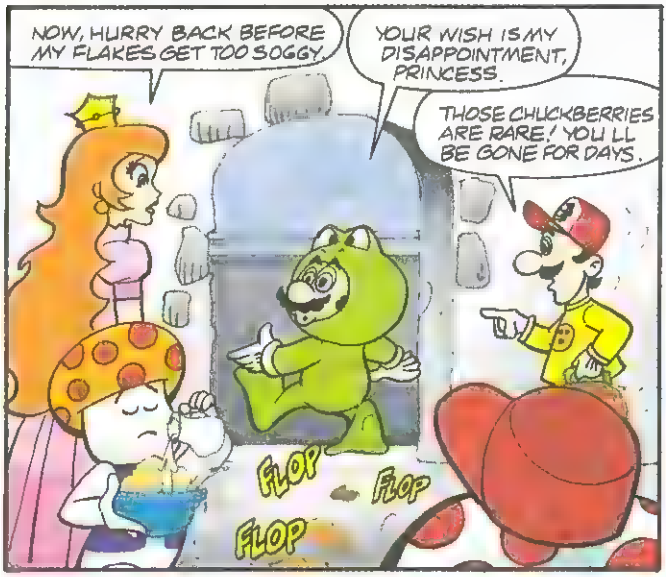
DUNK
AUUUGGHH
SPLOOSH


AND, SO...
GOOD SHOT, BENNY!!
YOW! ENOUGH ALREADY!
YOU MEAN I CAN TAKE THE REST OF THE DAY OFF? OR BETTER YET, I CAN TAKE THIS FUNNY-LOOKING COSTUME OFF?
SURE... 'CAUSE WHEN IT COMES TO FUNNY-LOOKING, I THINK I FINALLY KNOW HOW YOU FEEL!
GAME OVER

LOVE FLOUNDERS

By Bill Vallely, Mark McClellan, George Wildman, P. Zorito, Ken Lopez, The Gradations


MARIO, I THINK IT'S VERY SWEET OF YOU TO GO AND PICK SOME CHUCK-BERRIES FOR MY CEREAL.
DON'T MENTION IT. PLEASE.


NOW, HURRY BACK BEFORE MY FLAKES GET TOO SOGGY.
YOUR WISH IS MY DISAPPOINTMENT, PRINCESS.
THOSE CHUCKBERRIES ARE RARE! YOU'LL BE GONE FOR DAYS.
FLOP
FLOP
FLOP

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS GREASY, DRIPPING MEATBALL WHILE YOU RISK YOUR LIFE FOR A HANDFUL OF BERRIES.
SOMETIMES I THINK SHE TAKES THIS PRINCESS STUFF A LITTLE TOO SERIOUSLY.

I'M GOING TO MISS THE TOURNAMENT TODAY TO RISK MY LIFE FOR CEREAL FRUIT.
WHAT ELSE CAN GO WRONG?!

HI! I'M STANLEY THE TALKING FISH!
OKAY, I WAS WRONG. THINGS COULD GET WORSE!

MARIO? YOU?!!!
GO AWAY, STANLEY.

YOU REMEMBER ME--I'M STANLEY, THE TALKING FISH!! THIS IS MY GIRLFRIEND, SMOOKERS.
PLEASED, I'M SURE.
WITH A NAME LIKE SMOOKERS, YOU GOTTA BE GOOD.
LAST I HEARD, STANLEY, YOU WERE IN LOVE WITH BARBARA THE BUSH.

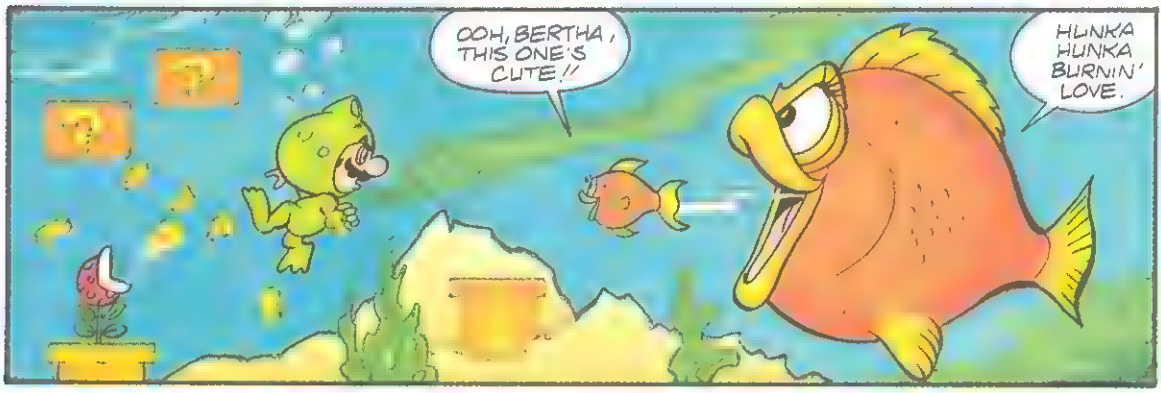
OH, NOOO!!! THAT WAS JUST GUPPY LOVE! THE NEW TRUE LOVE OF MY LIFE IS SMOOKERS!
PLEASED, I'M SURE.
I'M VERY HAPPY. NOW GO HOME.

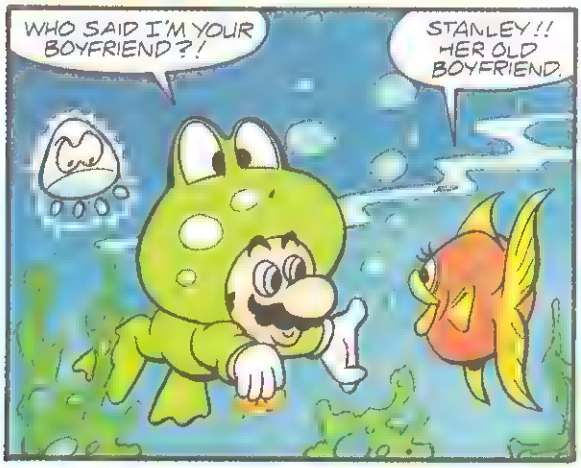
WEEELLLL, I'D LIKE TO. BUT I ASKED BERTHA OUT ON A DATE AND I HAVE TO BREAK IT.
NO, I'M NOT GOING TO DO YOU R DIRTY WORK FOR YOU.
IF YOU DO... I'LL LEAVE! HOW'S THAT?

WHERE IS THIS DELIGHTFUL LITTLE BERTHA, ANYWAY?!
COMING UP?

ACTUALLY, THIS ISN'T SO MUCH TO ASK. MAYBE I'M BEING TOO HARD ON STANLEY.

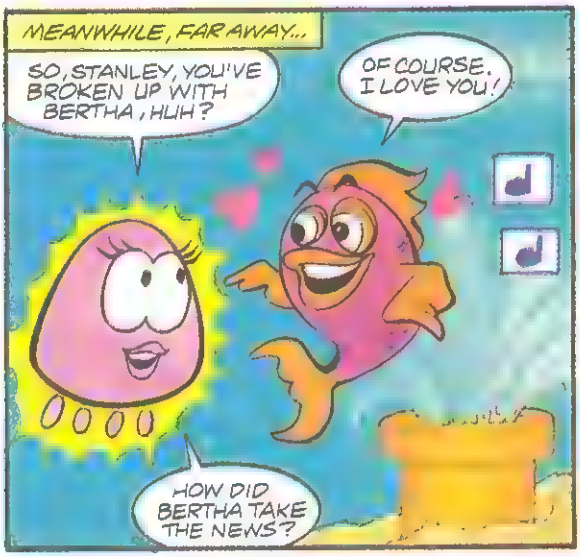
YOU MY NEW BOYFRIEND?
I HATE STANLEY

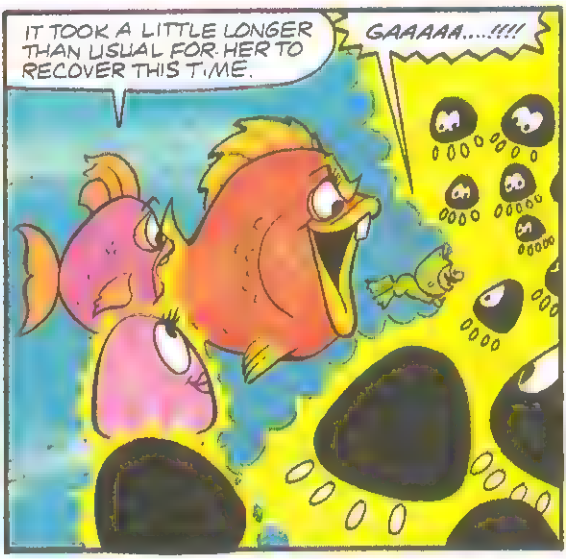

OOH, BERTHA, THIS ONE'S CUTE!!
HUNKA HUNKA BURNIN' LOVE.


WHO SAID I'M YOUR BOYFRIEND?!
STANLEY!! HER OLD BOYFRIEND.

AND WHAT DID GOOD OL' STANLEY SAY??!!
HE TOLD ME HOW YOU BEGGED HIM TO LET YOU GO OUT WITH ME.

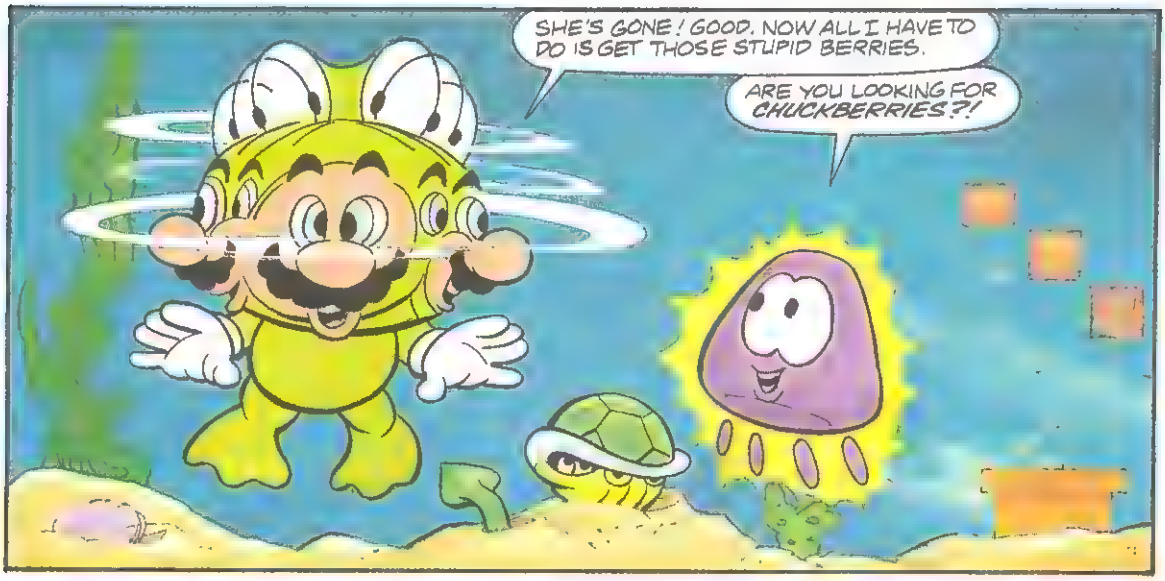
GET OUT OF MY WAY! DESPERATE PLUMBER ON THE RUN!
OOOH, THIS ONE HAS FIGHT IN 'IM!


MEANWHILE, FAR AWAY...
SO, STANLEY, YOU'VE BROKEN UP WITH BERTHA, HUH?
OF COURSE. I LOVE YOU!
HOW DID BERTHA TAKE THE NEWS?


IT TOOK A LITTLE LONGER THAN USUAL FOR HER TO RECOVER THIS TIME.
GAAAAA....!!!!

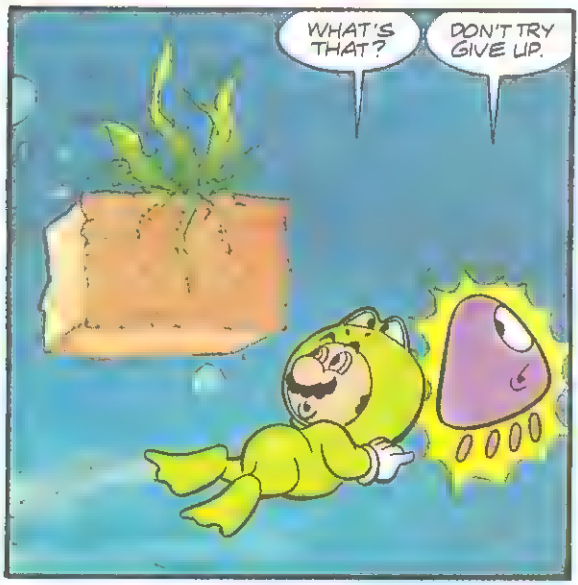
LITTLE DICKENS IS PLAYING HARD TO GET.
HE'S SO SWEET

I THINK HE WENT THIS WAY!
I'M COMING, HONEEEYYY!!!!
PHEW!

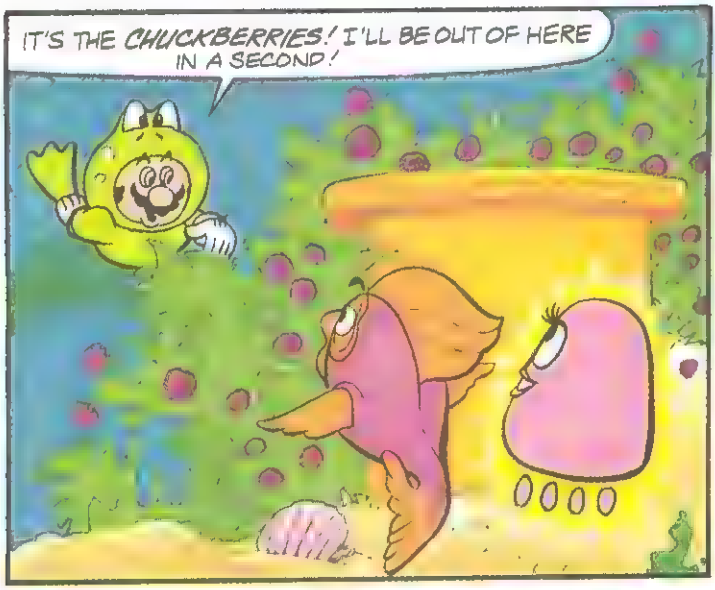

SHE'S GONE! GOOD. NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS GET THOSE STUPID BERRIES.
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR CHUCKBERRIES?!

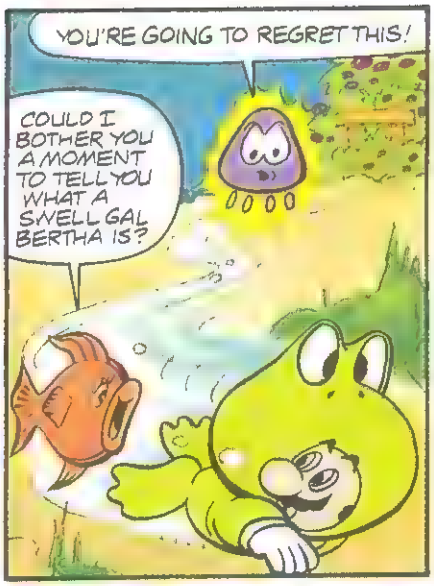
YEAH, YOU KNOW WHERE I COULD FIND SOME?
MIGHTY RARE THINGS. YOU COULD GO EMPTY-HANDED FOR WEEKS, MONTHS, WITHOUT HELP.

I COULD USE SOME HELP. BETWEEN THE BERRIES AND BERTHA...
LET ME GIVE YOU A PIECE OF ADVICE ABOUT GETTING AWAY FROM BERTHA.

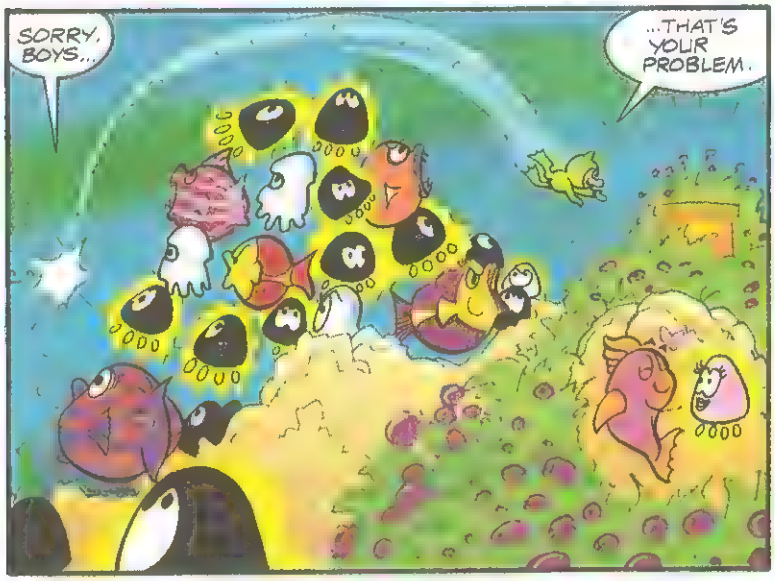

WHAT'S THAT?
DON'T TRY GIVE UP.

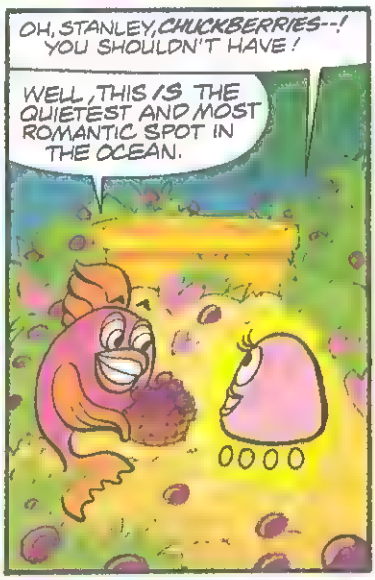
WAIT A MINUTE--! WHAT'S THAT UP AHEAD?!!
I'M SURE THE TWO OF YOU WILL BE VERY HAPPY TOGETHER!

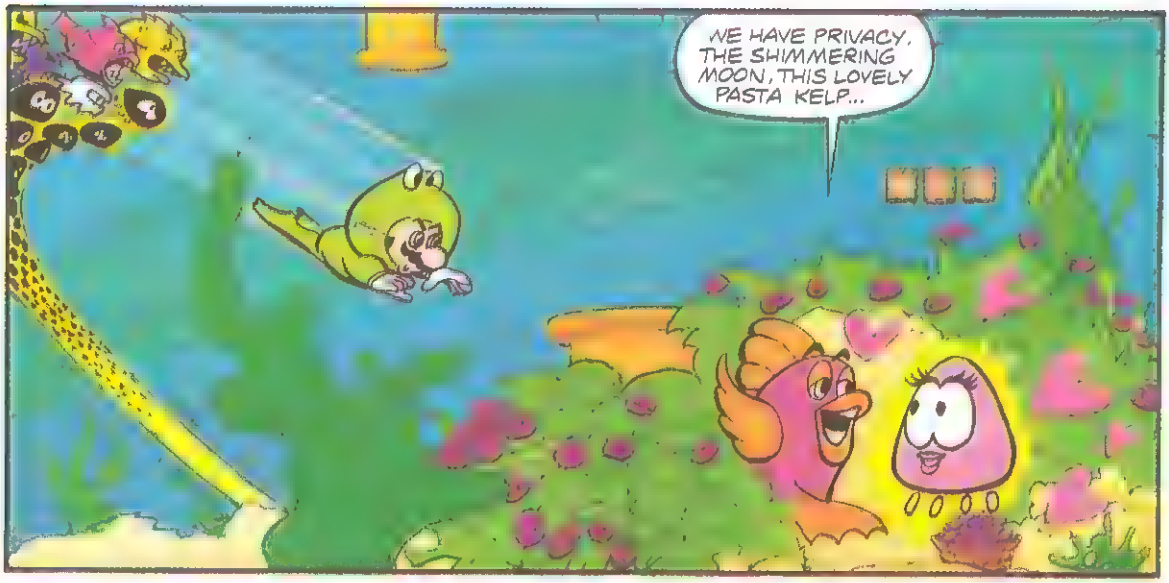

IT'S THE CHUCKBERRIES! I'LL BE OUT OF HERE IN A SECOND!

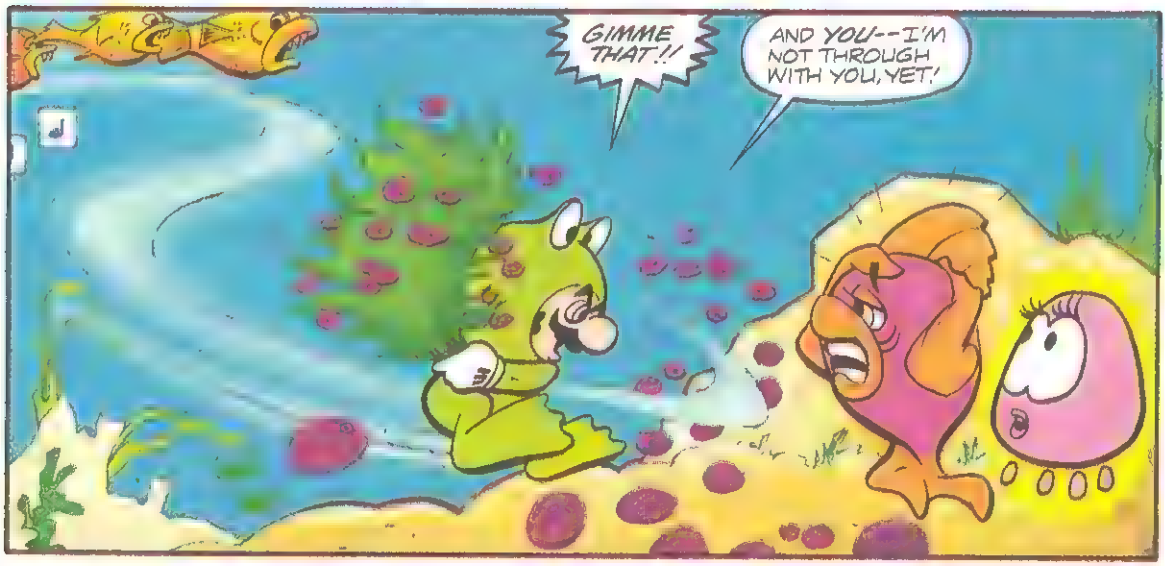

YOU'RE GOING TO REGRET THIS!
COULD I BOTHER YOU A MOMENT TO TELL YOU WHAT A SWELL GAL BERTHA IS?

NO KIDDING--WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH YOU GUYS AND BERTHA?
WELL, TO BE HONEST WITH YOU, IF YOU DON'T GET TOGETHER WITH BERTHA...
ONE OF US HAS TO!


SORRY, BOYS...
...THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM.


OH, STANLEY, CHUCKBERRIES--! YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE!
WELL, THIS IS THE QUIETEST AND MOST ROMANTIC SPOT IN THE OCEAN.

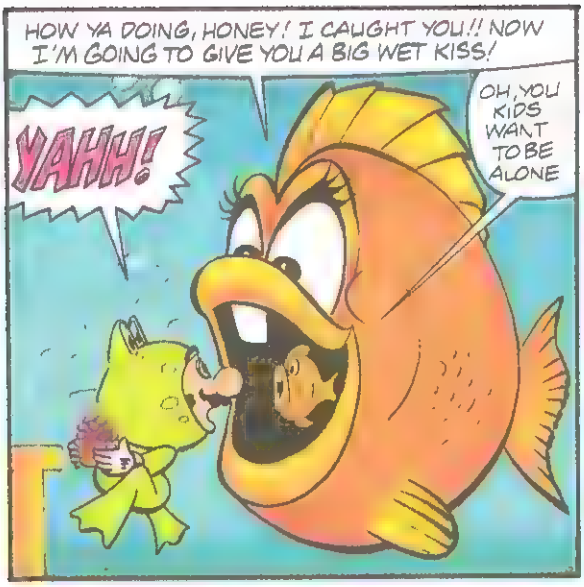

WE HAVE PRIVACY, THE SHIMMERING MOON, THIS LOVELY PASTA KELP...


GIMME THAT!!
AND YOU--I'M NOT THROUGH WITH YOU, YET!

YOU DID SETTLE EVERYTHING WITH BERTHA, RIGHT?
YOU WANT EXTRA PASTA KELP--? I GOT LOTS!

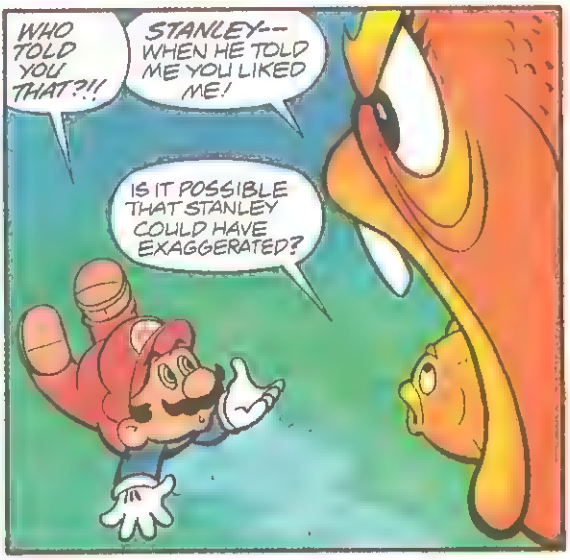
MOMENTS LATER...
HAH! I OUTRAN THOSE GUYS BY A MILE! THEY'LL NEVER CATCH ME.

I GOT THE BERRIES, I OUT-DISTANCED THE FISH--THERE'S NOTHING THAT CAN STOP ME FROM FULFILLING MY MISSION FOR THE PRINCESS!


HOW YA DOING, HONEY! I CAUGHT YOU!! NOW I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A BIG WET KISS!
YAHH!
OH, YOU KIDS WANT TO BE ALONE

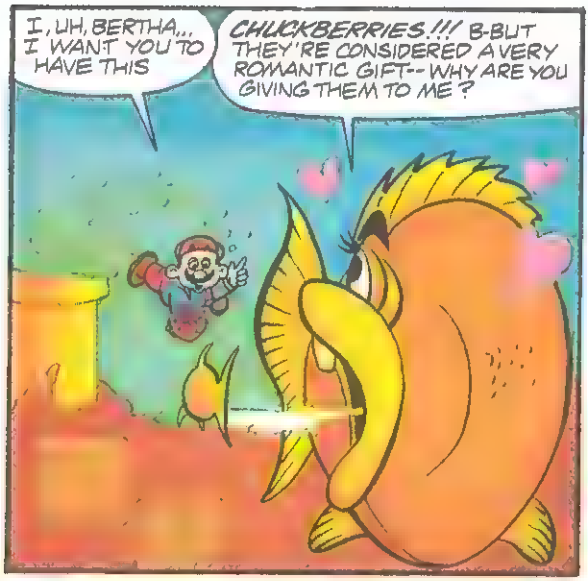
HEY, LADY-- KNOCK IT OFF, WILLYA?! THE SUIT WASN'T DESIGNED FOR THIS TYPE OF PUNISHMENT!!!

NOW LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE!
I--I THOUGHT YOU WERE A FROG!


WHO TOLD YOU THAT?!!
STANLEY-- WHEN HE TOLD ME YOU LIKED ME!
IS IT POSSIBLE THAT STANLEY COULD HAVE EXAGGERATED?

HE LIED JUST TO GET RID OF ME. THIS GUY HATES ME LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.
WELL, I'LL BE LEAVING NOW.

GOOD. I JUST WANT TO BE ALONE.
I BETTER LEAVE. THIS CERTAINLY WASN'T MY FAULT. BUT...

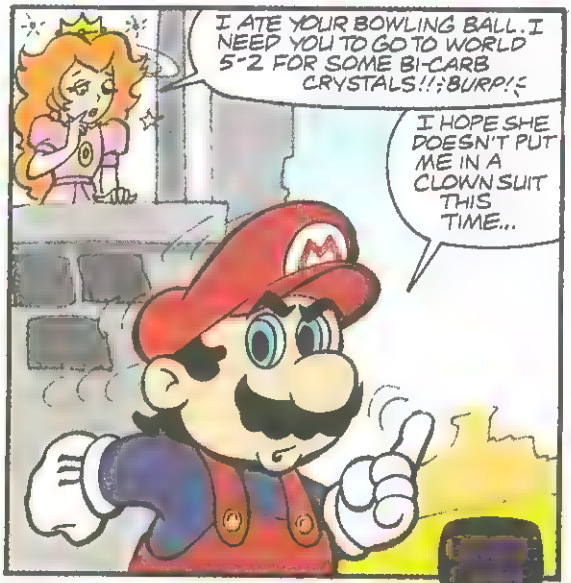

I, UH, BERTHA... I WANT YOU TO HAVE THIS
CHUCKBERRIES!!! B-BUT THEY'RE CONSIDERED A VERY ROMANTIC GIFT-- WHY ARE YOU GIVING THEM TO ME?

BECAUSE HE LOVES YOU!!
I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOU
BUT I'D LIKE TO. AT THE VERY LEAST WE CAN HAVE LUNCH NEXT WEEK AND SAY NASTY THINGS ABOUT STANLEY.

SOUNDS GREAT, IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU IN THE MEANTIME?
YES. HURT STANLEY A LOT.
CONSIDER IT DONE
FIRST SMOOKERS LEAVES ME, NOW THIS!

WELL, I MIGHT AS WELL GET THIS OVER WITH.
PRINCESS, ABOUT THOSE CHUCKBERRIES...
DON'T MENTION FOOD TO ME. EVER AGAIN.

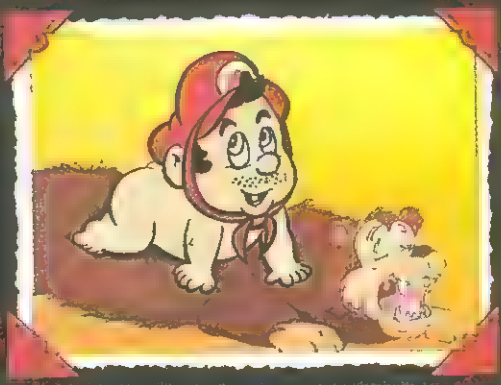
I GOT BORED WHILE YOU WERE GONE AND I DID SOMETHING BAD
WHAT'D YOU DO?!


I ATE YOUR BOWLING BALL. I NEED YOU TO GO TO WORLD 5-2 FOR SOME BI-CARB CRYSTALS!!; BURP!
I HOPE SHE DOESN'T PUT ME IN A CLOWN SUIT THIS TIME...

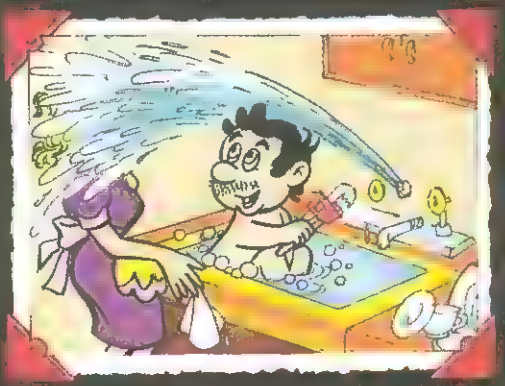
By John Walker, Don Dangio, P. Zorro, Ken Lopez, Kingman Hale

FAMILY ALBUM

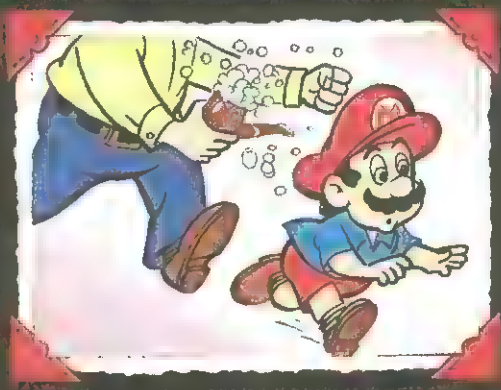
"THE EARLY YEARS"



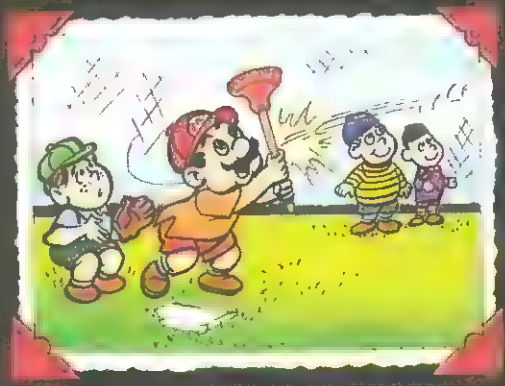
Some babies are born bald but Mario was born with a full head of hair. And a full face too.



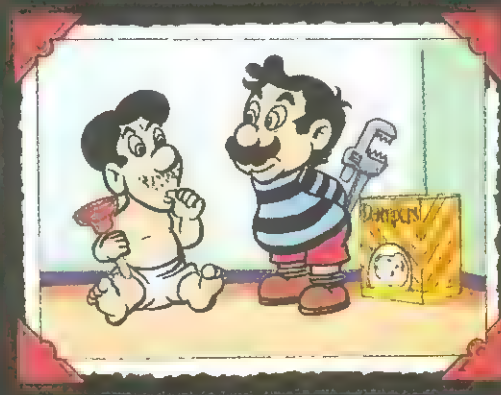
Little Mario showed a talent for plumbing at a very early age.



He even fixed his father's pipe!



Mario led the neighborhood softball league in home runs. Here's a picture of Mario with his lucky bat.



Mario's interest in plumbing grew and by the time his baby brother Luigi was born, he could fix almost **any** leak.

By John Walker, John Costanza, P. Zorito, Jade, Heather Eatman

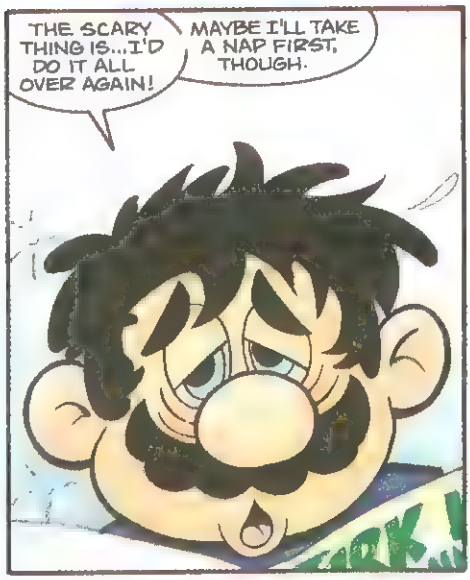
SUPER MARIO BROS.

Family Album

SUMMER CAMP

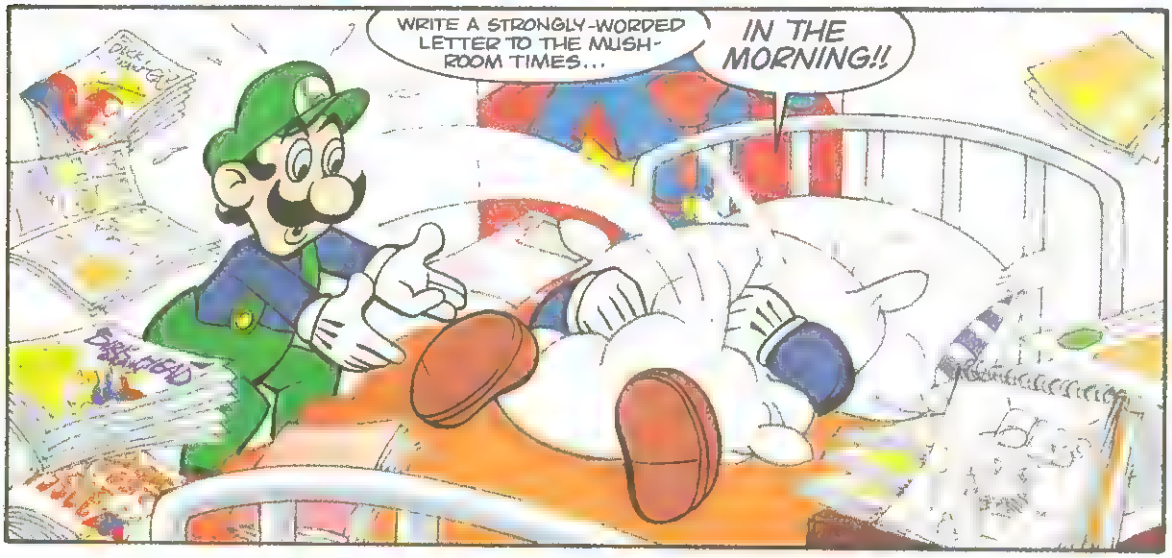
BEDTIME for DRAIN-HEAD

By Bill Vallely, Mark McClellan, George Wildman, P. Zorito, Jade, Kingman Hue



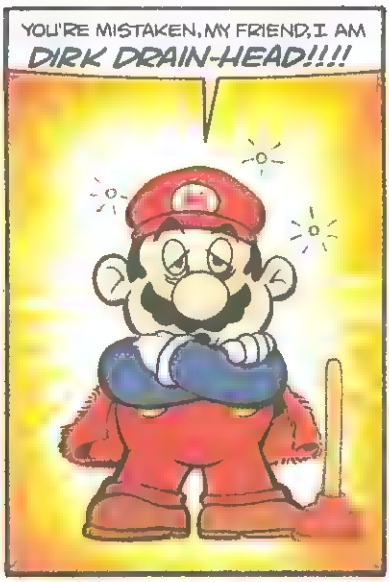
MARIO, GET OUT OF BED!!
}COUGH, COUGH!!{ LUIGI? IS IT A WEEK LATER ALREADY?!

QUICK! TOAD'S BEEN KIDNAPPED BY KOOPA!
YES, AND YOU KNOW WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO, DON'T YOU?
TOAD?! LITTLE TOAD!!

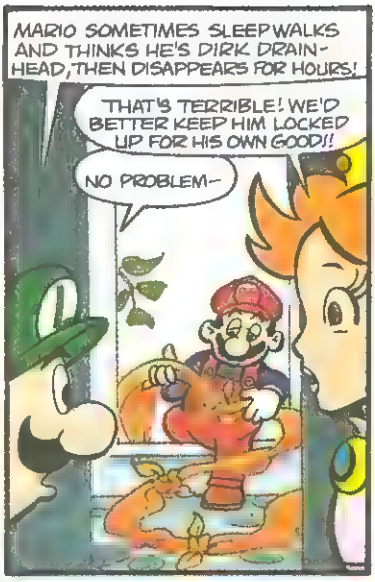

WRITE A STRONGLY-WORDED LETTER TO THE MUSHROOM TIMES...
IN THE MORNING!!

YOU GOT TEN MINUTES!
Uhh... I WISH DIRK DRAIN-HEAD WERE HERE, HE'D KNOW WHAT TO DO...

8 MINUTES LATER...
OK PRINCESS, WE HAVE TO WAKE MARIO. THIS COULD GET UGLY.
MARIO..?!
ZZZZZ

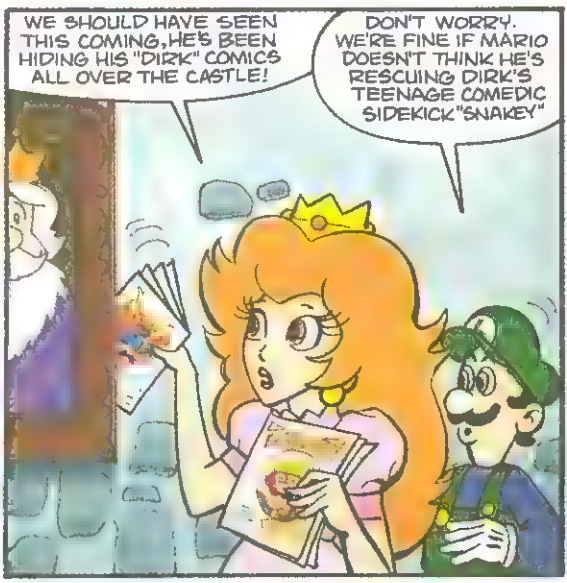

YOU'RE MISTAKEN, MY FRIEND, I AM DIRK DRAIN-HEAD!!!!

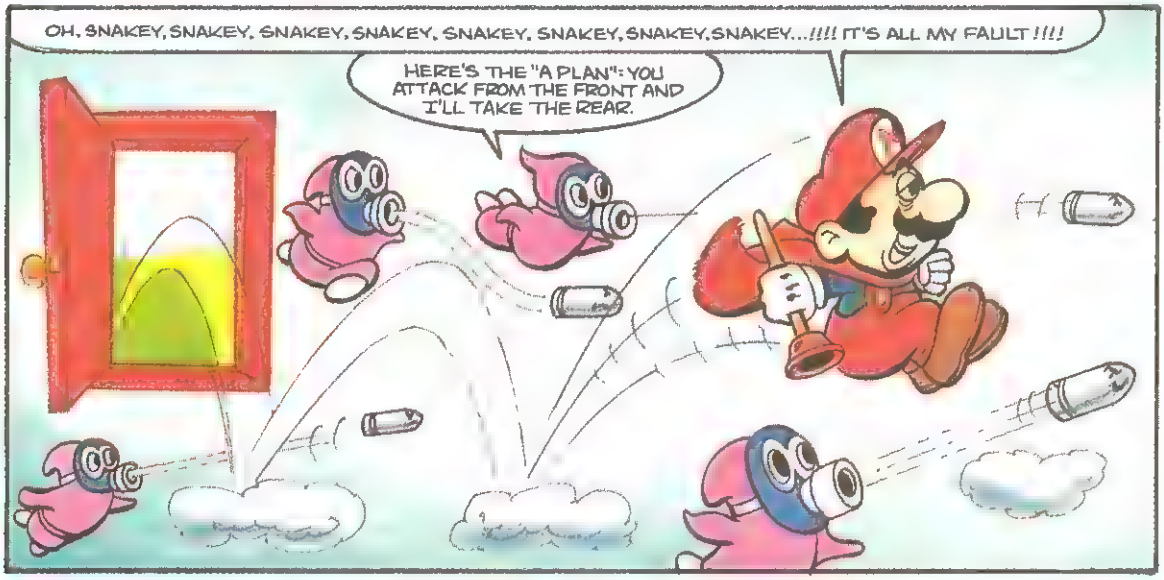
NOT AGAIN..!!
A STALWART FUNGUS NEEDS MY HELP!
LUIGI, COULD I TALK TO YOU A SECOND?

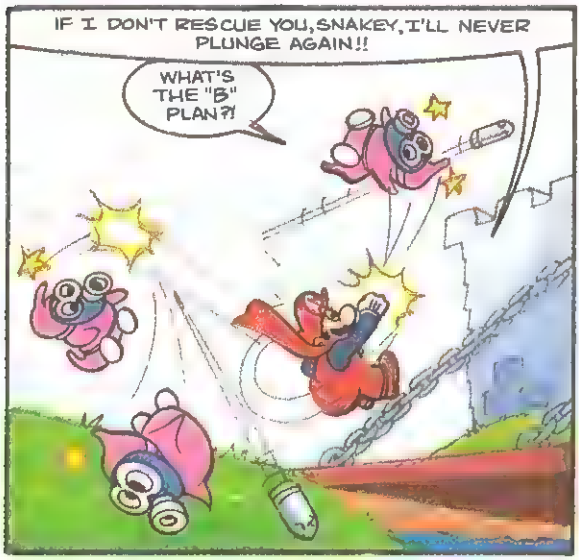

MARIO SOMETIMES SLEEPWALKS AND THINKS HE'S DIRK DRAIN-HEAD, THEN DISAPPEARS FOR HOURS!
THAT'S TERRIBLE! WE'D BETTER KEEP HIM LOCKED UP FOR HIS OWN GOOD!!
NO PROBLEM–

THERE'S NO WAY THAT MARIO'S SMART ENOUGH TO SNEAK OUT OF THAT ROOM
MARIO? MARIO...?!
DIRK DRAIN-HEAD, ACTION PLUMBER, SHALL SEEK OUT THE ENEMY!

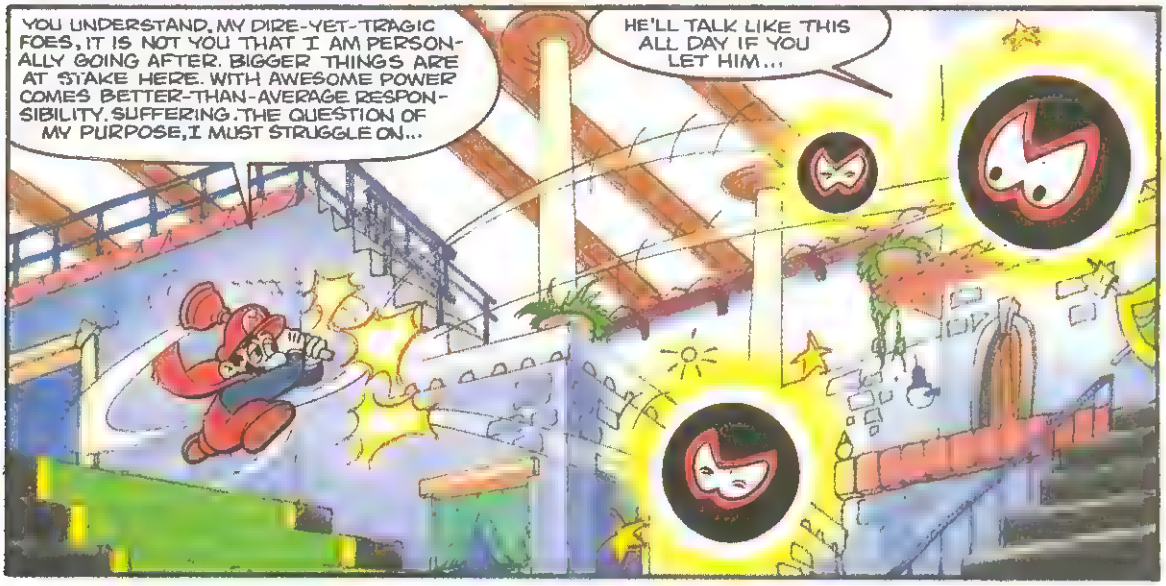
WOW. HE'S ALMOST TO THE HORIZON.
OKAY. THIS IS A PROBLEM... BUT NOT A BIG ONE
YOU BUTTON-PUSHERS ARE GOING TO TASTE SOME ACTION — DIRK'S ON THE CASE!!

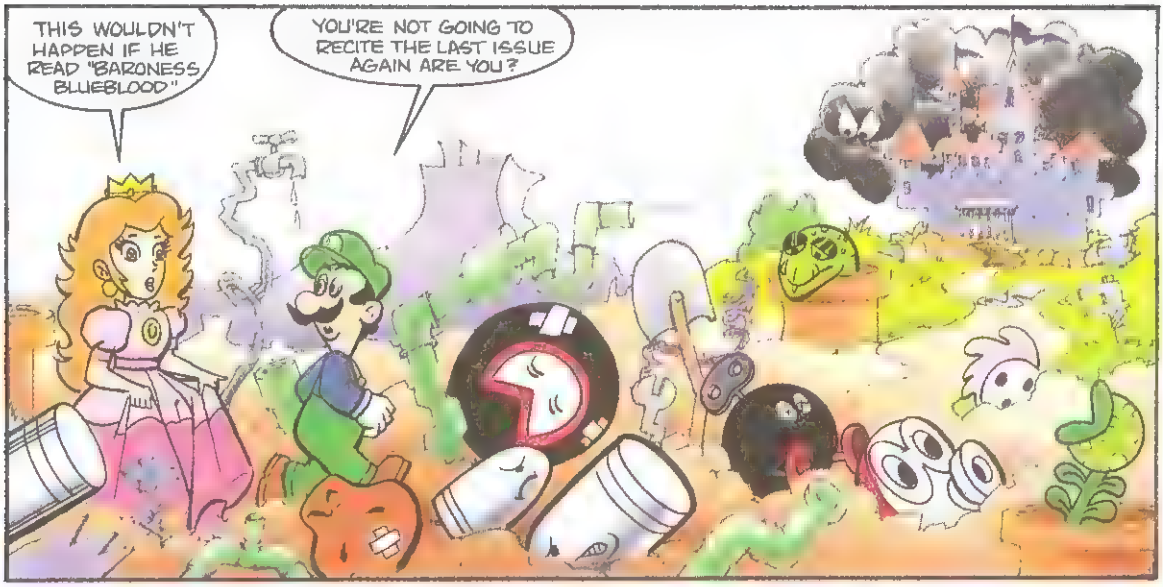

WE SHOULD HAVE SEEN THIS COMING, HE'S BEEN HIDING HIS "DIRK" COMICS ALL OVER THE CASTLE!
DON'T WORRY. WE'RE FINE IF MARIO DOESN'T THINK HE'S RESCUING DIRK'S TEENAGE COMEDIC SIDEKICK "SNAKEY"

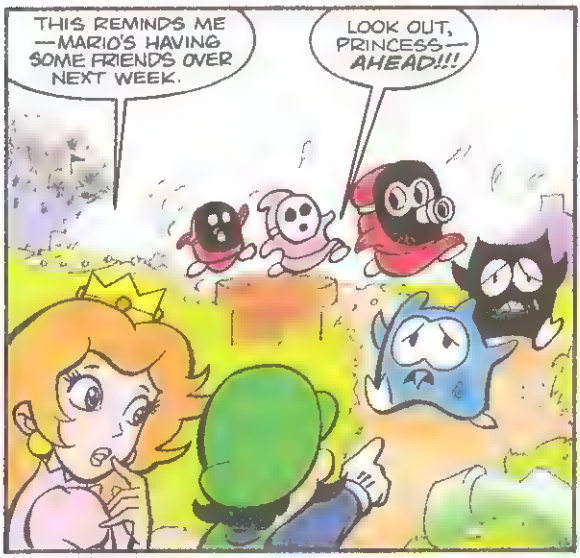

OH, SNAKEY, SNAKEY, SNAKEY, SNAKEY, SNAKEY, SNAKEY, SNAKEY, SNAKEY...!!!! IT'S ALL MY FAULT!!!!
HERE'S THE "A PLAN": YOU ATTACK FROM THE FRONT AND I'LL TAKE THE REAR.


IF I DON'T RESCUE YOU, SNAKEY, I'LL NEVER PLUNGE AGAIN!!
WHAT'S THE "B" PLAN?!

LUIGI, IS "DIRK" SMARTER THAN MARIO?
WELL, ALMOST EVERYONE IS.

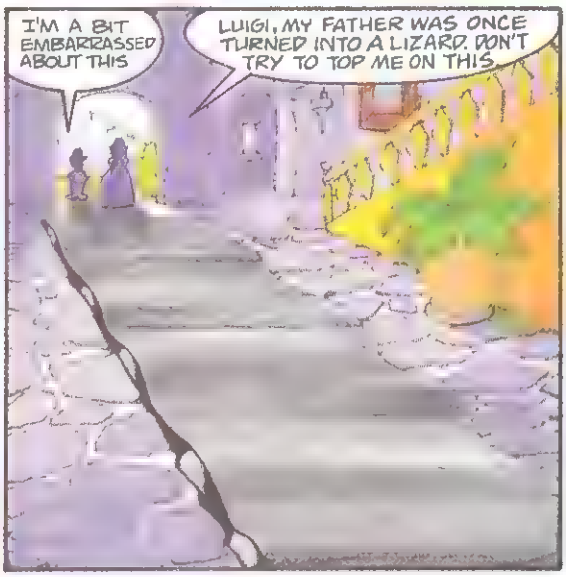

YOU UNDERSTAND, MY DIRE-YET-TRAGIC FOES, IT IS NOT YOU THAT I AM PERSONALLY GOING AFTER. BIGGER THINGS ARE AT STAKE HERE. WITH AWESOME POWER COMES BETTER-THAN-AVERAGE RESPONSIBILITY. SUFFERING. THE QUESTION OF MY PURPOSE, I MUST STRUGGLE ON...
HE'LL TALK LIKE THIS ALL DAY IF YOU LET HIM...

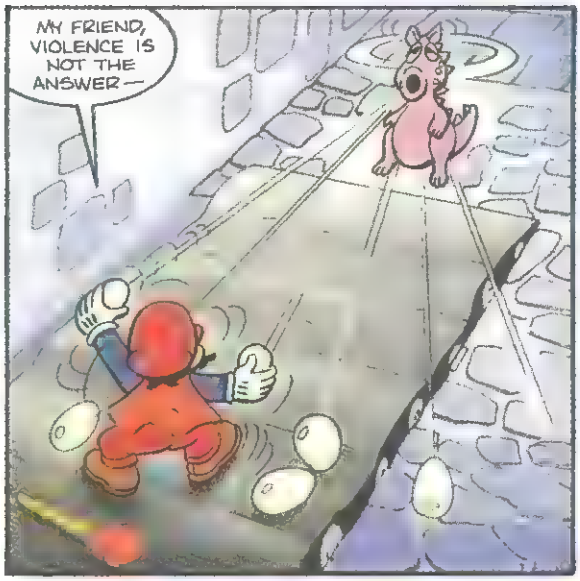

THIS WOULDN'T HAPPEN IF HE READ "BARONESS BLUEBLOOD"
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO RECITE THE LAST ISSUE AGAIN ARE YOU?

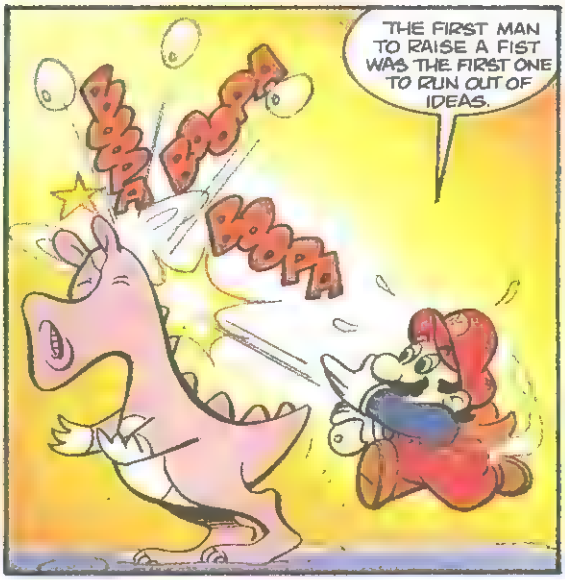

THIS REMINDS ME —MARIO'S HAVING SOME FRIENDS OVER NEXT WEEK.
LOOK OUT, PRINCESS— AHEAD!!!

WE'RE GOING TO KOOOOPA AND WEEEE'RE TELLING.
YOU'RE BROTHER'S IN BIIIG TROUBLE NOW! HE DOESN'T PLAY FAIR.
I GOT A PAPER CUT WANT TO SEE?

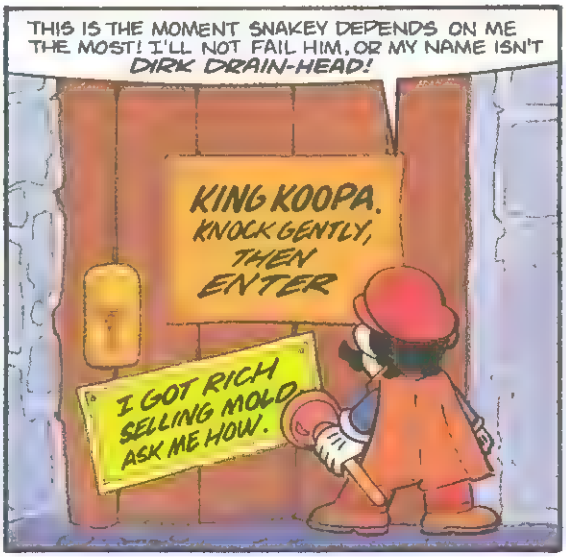
UH...EXACTLY HOW MUCH TROUBLE ARE WE IN WITH KOOPA?
YOU KNOW, IT'S GOING TO BE REAL HARD SMOOTHING OUT THIS FINISH...

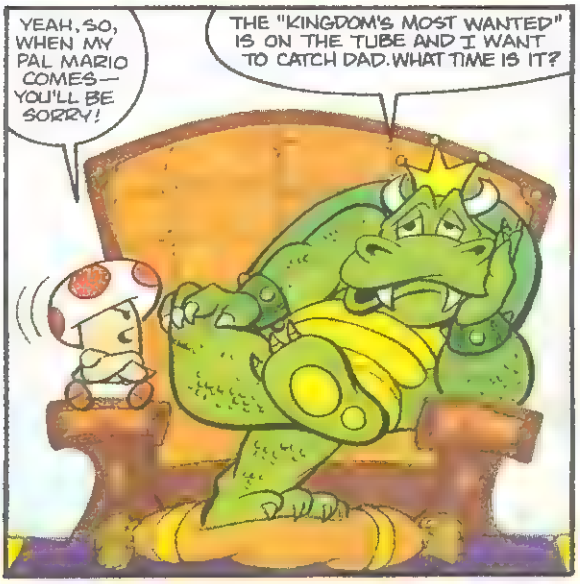

I'M A BIT EMBARRASSED ABOUT THIS
LUIGI, MY FATHER WAS ONCE TURNED INTO A LIZARD. DON'T TRY TO TOP ME ON THIS.


MY FRIEND, VIOLENCE IS NOT THE ANSWER—

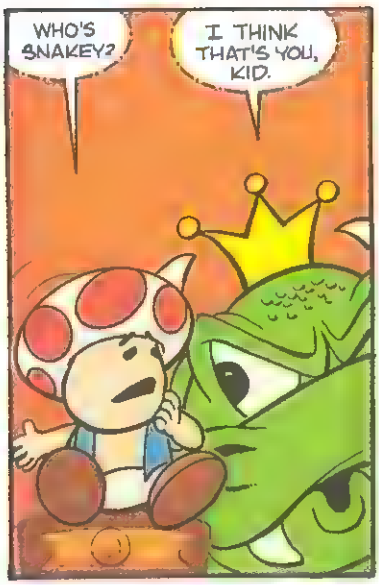

THE FIRST MAN TO RAISE A FIST WAS THE FIRST ONE TO RUN OUT OF IDEAS.
KOOPA
KOOPA
KOOPA

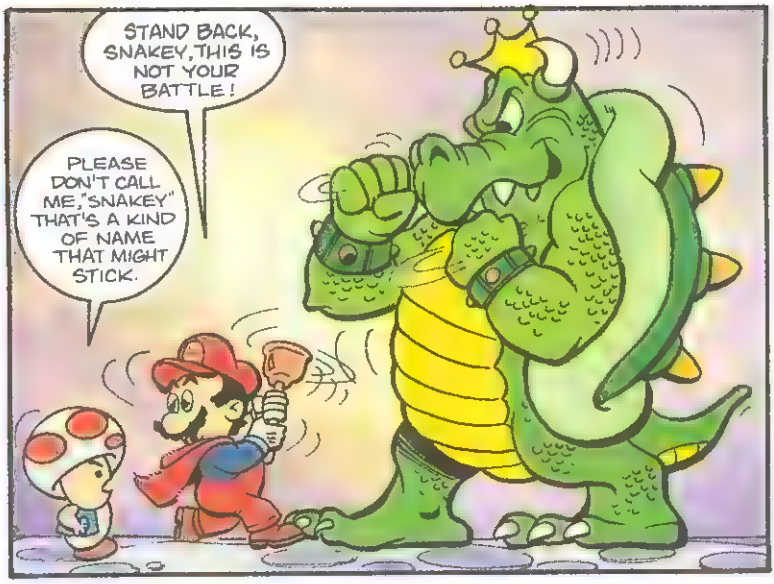
KOOPA. THIRD DOOR TO THE LEFT. WATCH THAT THIRD STEP. IT'S A LULU

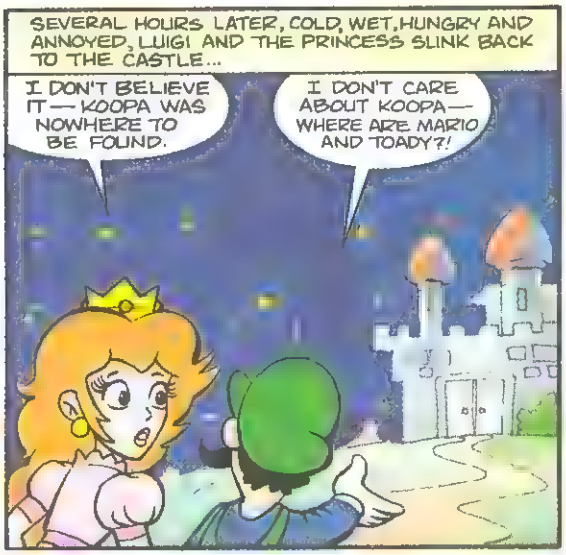

THIS IS THE MOMENT SNAKEY DEPENDS ON ME THE MOST! I'LL NOT FAIL HIM, OR MY NAME ISN'T DIRK DRAIN-HEAD!
KING KOOPA. KNOCK GENTLY, THEN ENTER
I GOT RICH SELLING MOLD. ASK ME HOW.

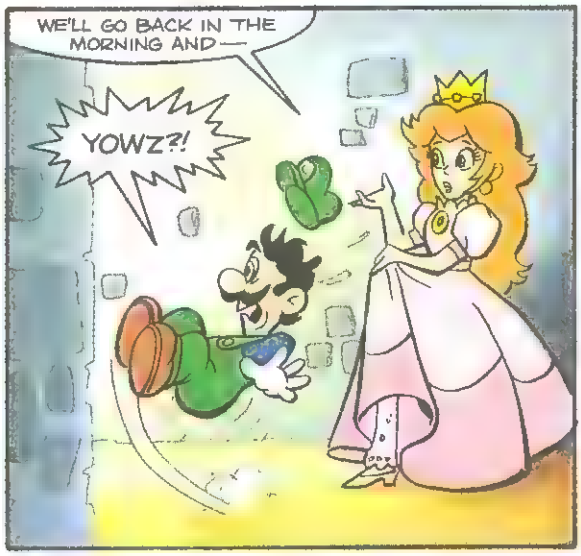

YEAH, SO, WHEN MY PAL MARIO COMES— YOU'LL BE SORRY!
THE "KINGDOM'S MOST WANTED" IS ON THE TUBE AND I WANT TO CATCH DAD. WHAT TIME IS IT?

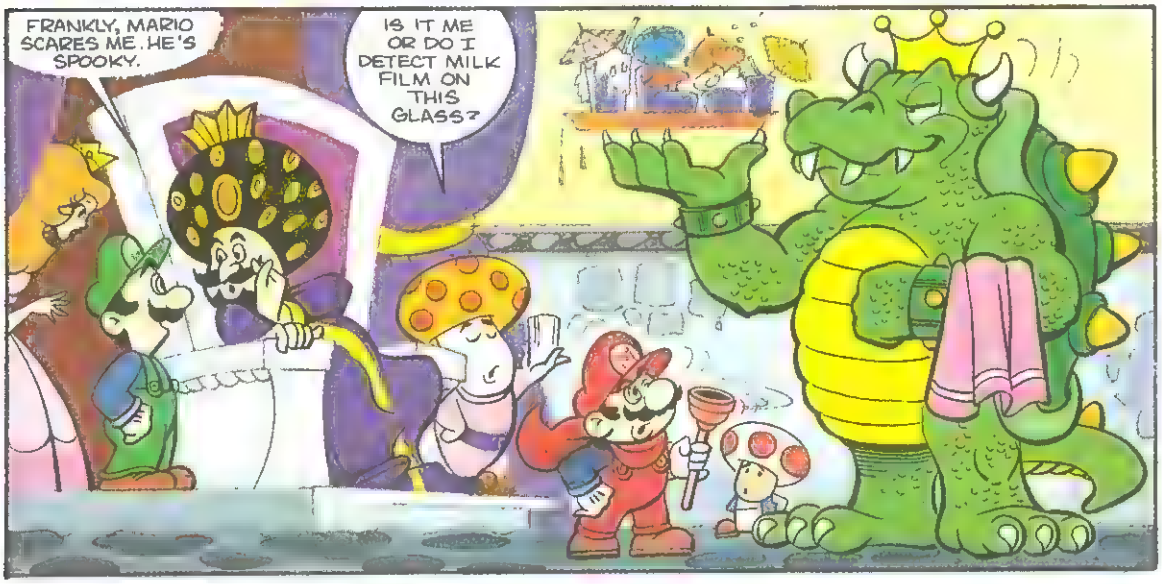
IT'S PLUNGIN' TIME!!!!
RELEASE SNAKEY!!

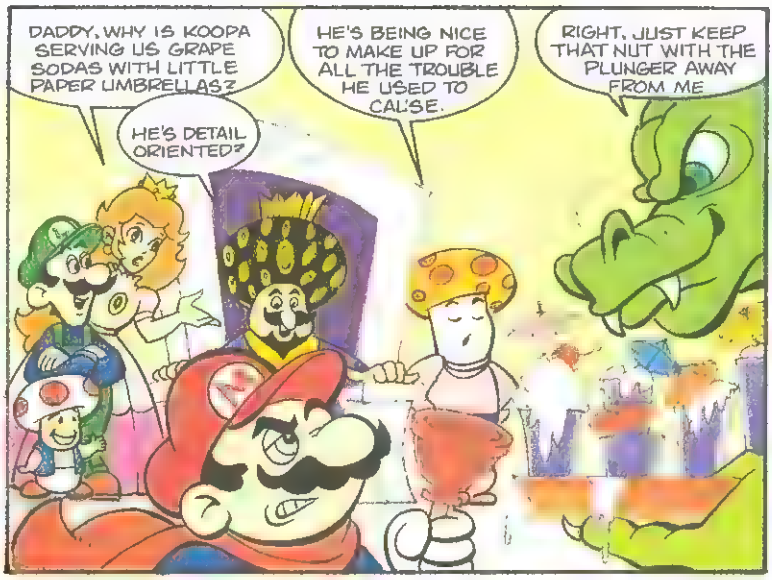

WHO'S SNAKEY?
I THINK THAT'S YOU, KID.

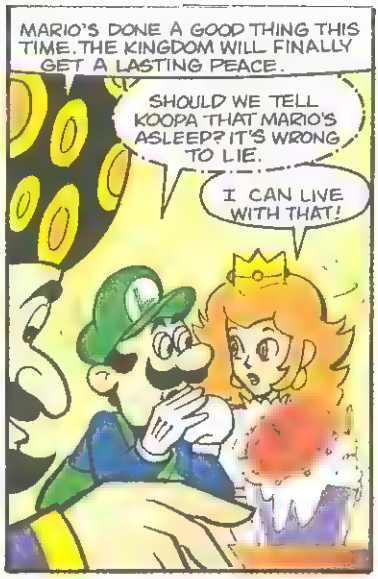

STAND BACK, SNAKEY, THIS IS NOT YOUR BATTLE!
PLEASE DON'T CALL ME, "SNAKEY" THAT'S A KIND OF NAME THAT MIGHT STICK.


SEVERAL HOURS LATER, COLD, WET, HUNGRY AND ANNOYED, LUIGI AND THE PRINCESS SLINK BACK TO THE CASTLE...
I DON'T BELIEVE IT — KOOPA WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT KOOPA — WHERE ARE MARIO AND TOADY?!

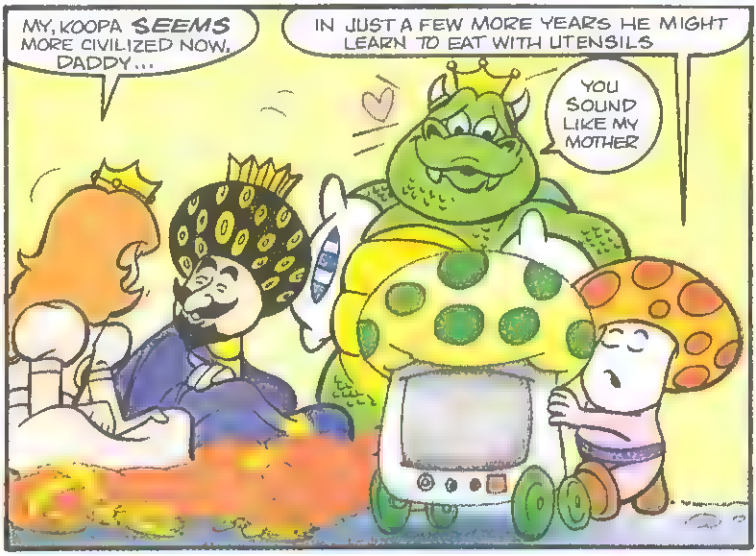

WE'LL GO BACK IN THE MORNING AND —
YOWZ?!


FRANKLY, MARIO SCARES ME. HE'S SPOOKY.
IS IT ME OR DO I DETECT MILK FILM ON THIS GLASS?

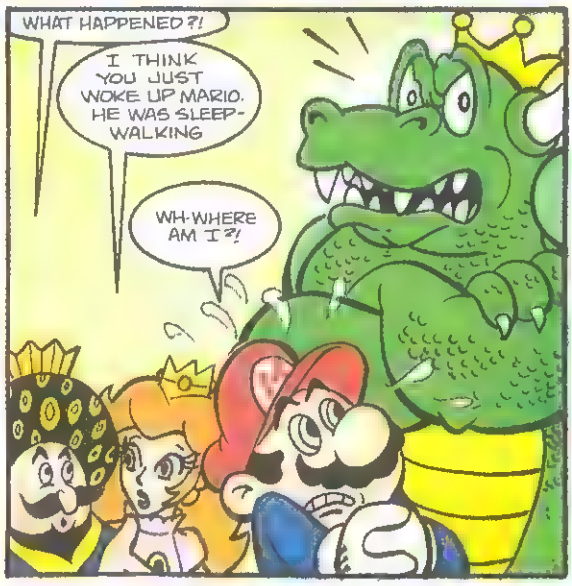

DADDY, WHY IS KOOPA SERVING US GRAPE SODAS WITH LITTLE PAPER UMBRELLAS?
HE'S DETAIL ORIENTED?
HE'S BEING NICE TO MAKE UP FOR ALL THE TROUBLE HE USED TO CAUSE.
RIGHT, JUST KEEP THAT NUT WITH THE PLUNGER AWAY FROM ME


MARIO'S DONE A GOOD THING THIS TIME. THE KINGDOM WILL FINALLY GET A LASTING PEACE.
SHOULD WE TELL KOOPA THAT MARIO'S ASLEEP? IT'S WRONG TO LIE.
I CAN LIVE WITH THAT!

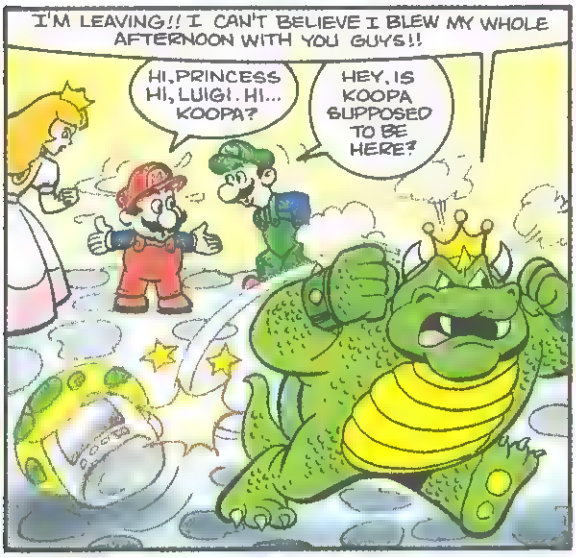
LOOK, TOADSTOOL, WORLD PEACE IS OKAY. BUT I'M MISSING "THE KINGDOM'S MOST WANTED"!
YOU'RE RIGHT! YEESH! WOOSTER--FETCH THE ROYAL T.V !!

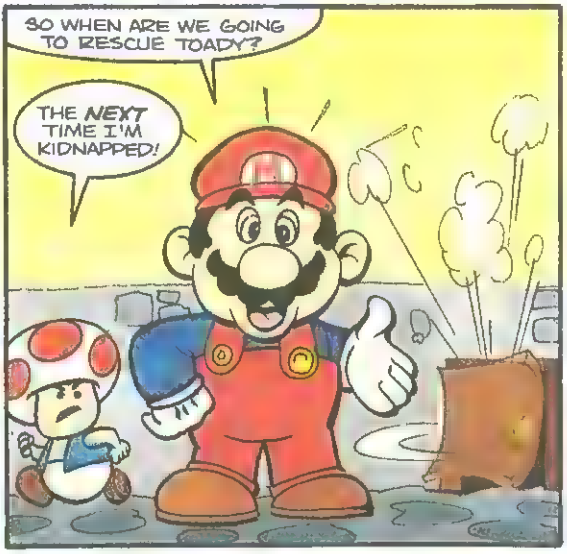

MY, KOOPA SEEMS MORE CIVILIZED NOW, DADDY...
IN JUST A FEW MORE YEARS HE MIGHT LEARN TO EAT WITH UTENSILS
YOU SOUND LIKE MY MOTHER

FRANKLY, MARIO IS MORE VALUABLE ASLEEP THAN AWAKE. THANKS, MARIO!!!
URK!


WHAT HAPPENED?!
I THINK YOU JUST WOKE UP MARIO. HE WAS SLEEP-WALKING
WH-WHERE AM I?!

MARIO CAPTURED ME SINGLE-HANDEDLY ...IN HIS SLEEP?!!!
WELLLL ... KINDA!


I'M LEAVING!! I CAN'T BELIEVE I BLEW MY WHOLE AFTERNOON WITH YOU GUYS!!
HI, PRINCESS HI, LUIGI. HI... KOOPA?
HEY, IS KOOPA SUPPOSED TO BE HERE?

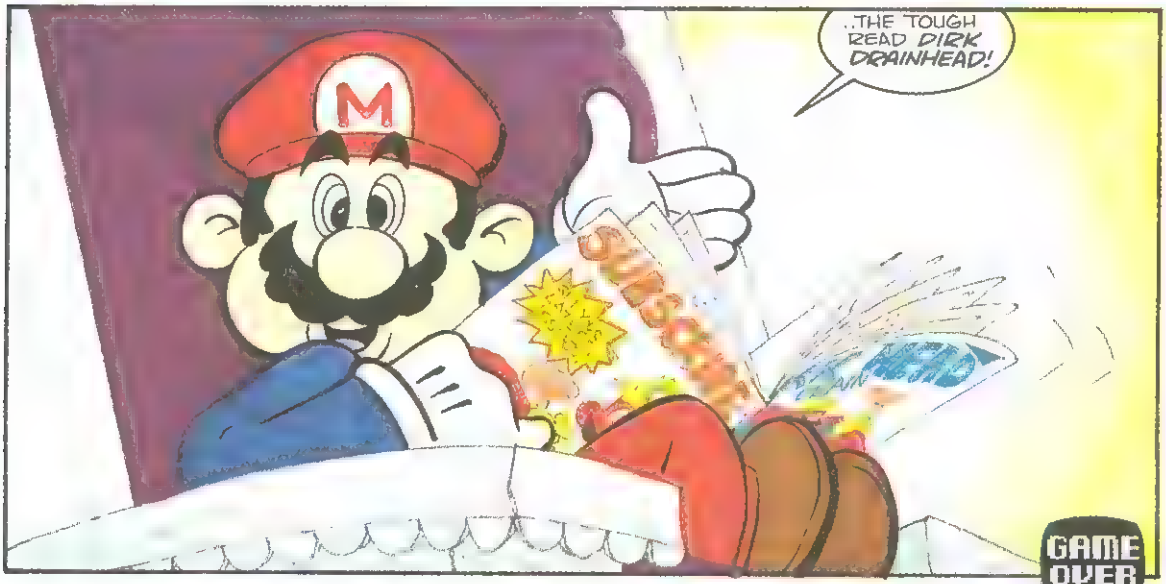

SO WHEN ARE WE GOING TO RESCUE TOADY?
THE NEXT TIME I'M KIDNAPPED!

SLAM!
?
BAM!

GUYS?
GUYS?!!

!!!

WELL, WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH...


..THE TOUGH READ DIRK DRAINHEAD!
GAME OVER

By John Walker, John Costanza, P. Zorito, Jade, Kathryn Bolinger

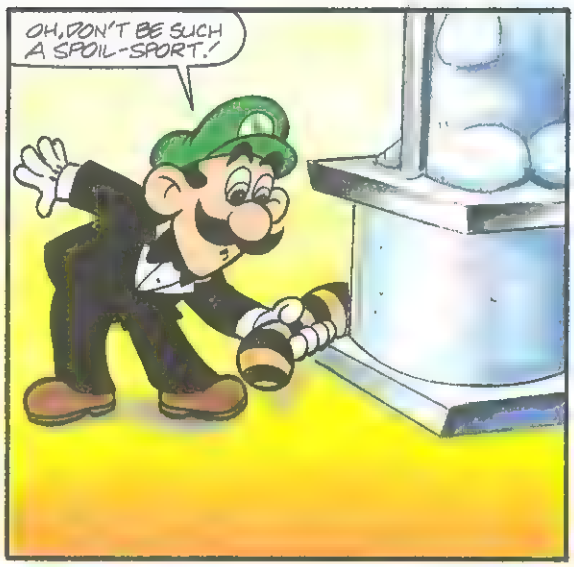
MARIO HAS MANY STRANGE POWERS -- AND FEW STRANGER THAN HIS TANOOKI POWERS! HOW DID MARIO DISCOVER THE TANOOKI SECRETS? LEARN THE STORY HERE, IN THIS TALE OF TAILS...

TANOOKI SUITS ME

OH, LUIGI, ISN'T THIS WONDERFUL? HAVING A FORMAL OPENING FOR OUR NEW ROYAL ART GALLERY WAS A FANTASTIC IDEA!

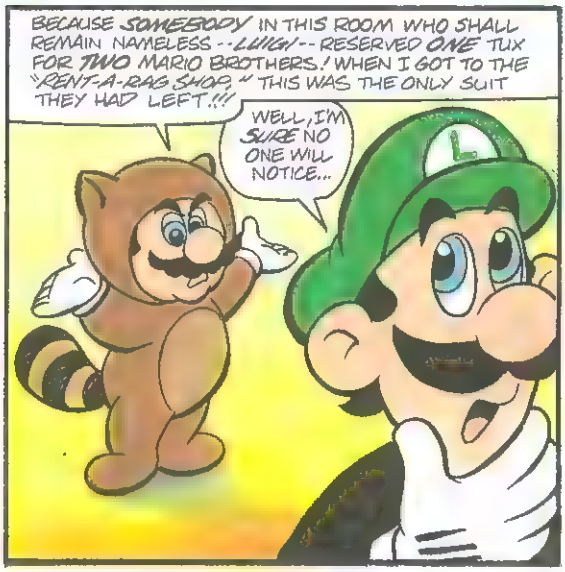
BEST OF ALL, NOW EVERYONE WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY OUR ROYAL ART TREASURES!

UH-OH. TIME FOR A NEW TRAY OF MUNCHIES! SEE YOU IN A SEC!
PSST! SHE'S GONE! YOU CAN COME OUT NOW!
I'M NOT COMING OUT!!!


OH, DON'T BE SUCH A SPOIL-SPORT!

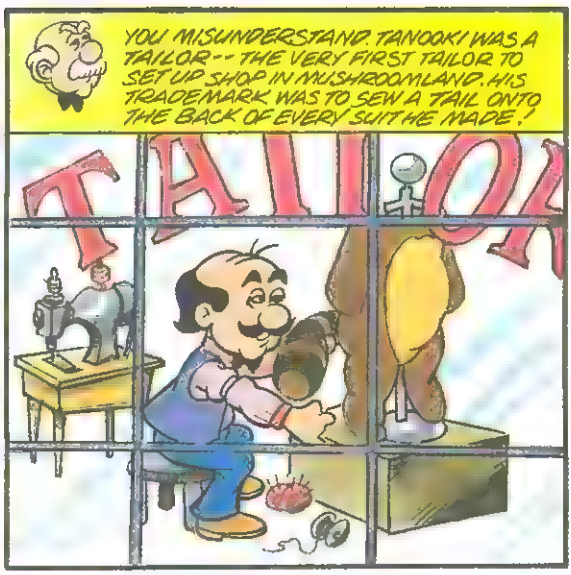
JUST BECAUSE EVERYONE ELSE IS WEARING A TUXEDO AND YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WITH A... UH... RACCOON SUIT-- THAT'S NO REASON TO BE EMBARRASSED!

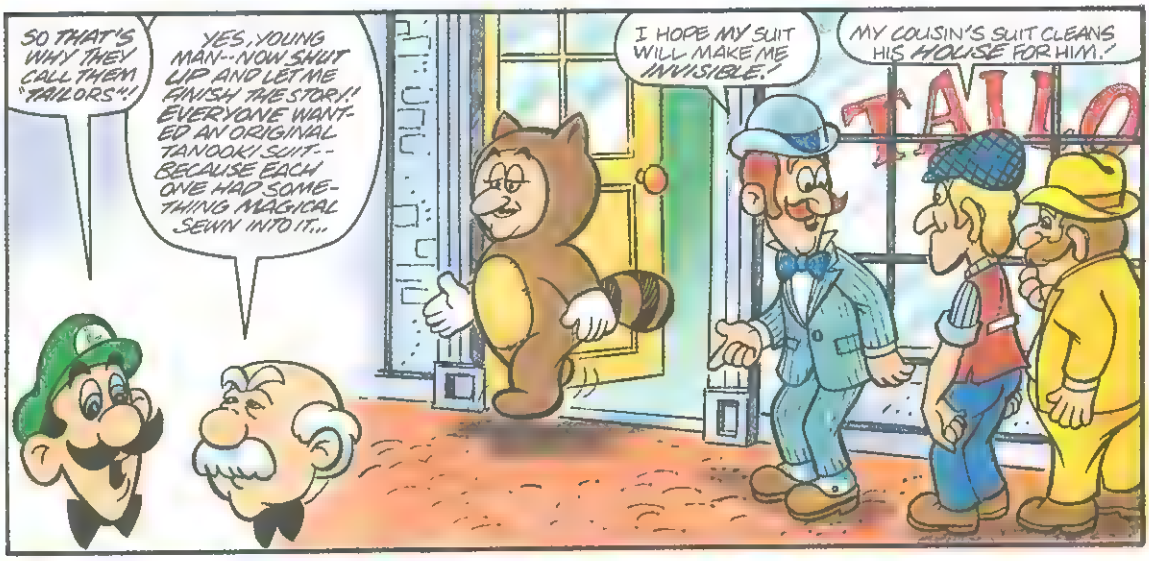
BY THE WAY, WHY ARE YOU WEARING A RACCOON SUIT?


BECAUSE SOMEBODY IN THIS ROOM WHO SHALL REMAIN NAMELESS -- LUIGI -- RESERVED ONE TUX FOR TWO MARIO BROTHERS! WHEN I GOT TO THE "RENT-A-RAG SHOP," THIS WAS THE ONLY SUIT THEY HAD LEFT!!!
WELL, I'M SURE NO ONE WILL NOTICE...

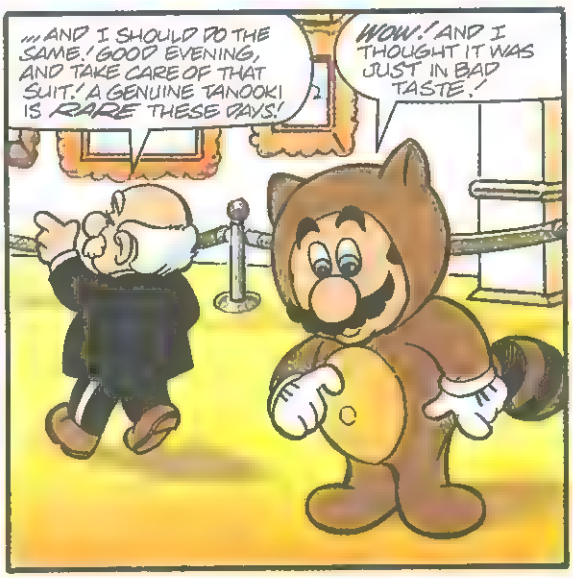
HI, KING!
GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT, LUIGI!
AND, MARIO... UH... NICE RACCOON SUIT!

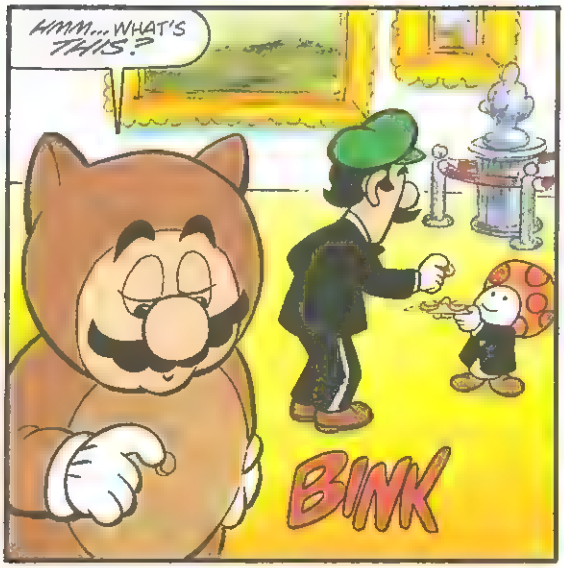
EXCUSE ME, BUT I COULDN'T HELP NOTICING YOUR TANOOKI SUIT! IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE I'VE SEEN SUCH A FINE EXAMPLE OF TANOOKI-TAILORING!
TANOOKI SUIT? I THOUGHT IT WAS A RACCOON SUIT LEFT OVER FROM HALLOWEEN!


YOU MISUNDERSTAND. TANOOKI WAS A TAILOR -- THE VERY FIRST TAILOR TO SET UP SHOP IN MUSHROOMLAND. HIS TRADEMARK WAS TO SEW A TAIL ONTO THE BACK OF EVERY SUIT HE MADE!


SO THAT'S WHY THEY CALL THEM "TAILORS"!!
YES, YOUNG MAN -- NOW SHUT UP AND LET ME FINISH THE STORY! EVERYONE WANTED AN ORIGINAL TANOOKI SUIT -- BECAUSE EACH ONE HAD SOMETHING MAGICAL SEWN INTO IT...
I HOPE MY SUIT WILL MAKE ME INVISIBLE!
MY COUSIN'S SUIT CLEANS HIS HOUSE FOR HIM!

BUT TANOOKI GREW EXHAUSTED TRYING TO KEEP UP WITH THE DEMAND. FOR HIM, THE MAGIC WAS GONE -- AND FINALLY, ONE DAY, TANOOKI THE TAILOR SIMPLY DISAPPEARED...
Out of BUSINESS


...AND I SHOULD DO THE SAME! GOOD EVENING, AND TAKE CARE OF THAT SUIT! A GENUINE TANOOKI IS RARE THESE DAYS!
WOW! AND I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST IN BAD TASTE!

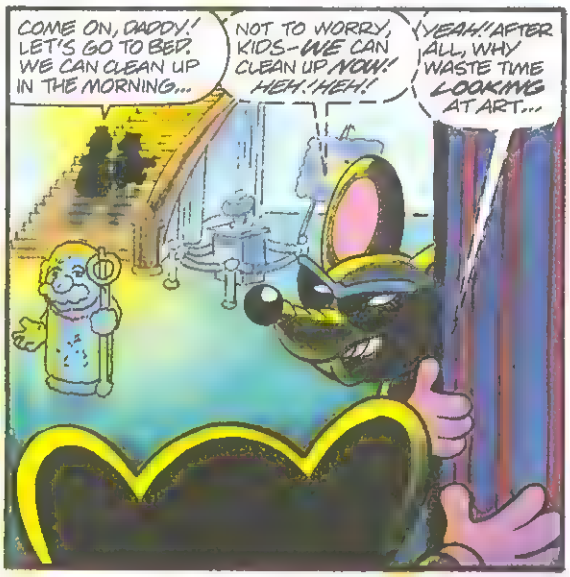

HMM... WHAT'S THIS?
BINK

YIKES! I JUST TURNED INTO A STATUE!!
HEY, MARIO, TRY ONE OF THESE CELERY PUFFS--UH, MARIO?

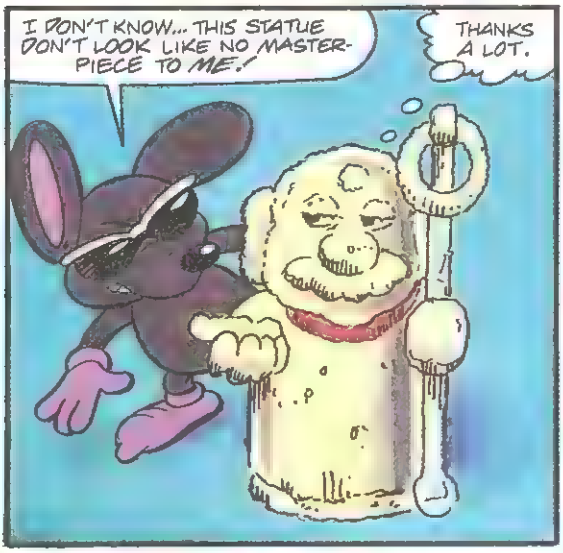
HUH! HE MUST BE HIDING AGAIN! WHAT A PARTY POOPER!
... AND HERE'S THE HIGHLIGHT OF OUR COLLECTION -- DA FUNGI'S MONA MUSHROOM!
FUNNY! I DON'T REMEMBER THAT STATUE.
NICE! STRANGELY CLASSIC, YET CONTEMPORARY!

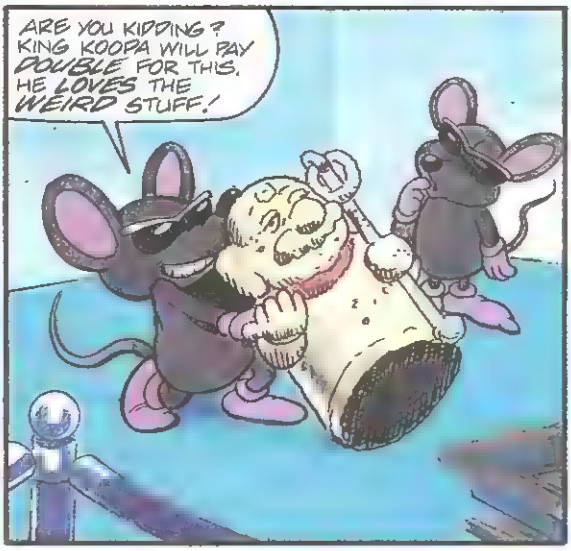
WOW! THE OLD GUY WAS TELLING THE TRUTH--THIS TANOOKI SUIT IS MAGICAL! BUT, HOW DO I TURN BACK INTO MARIO???!

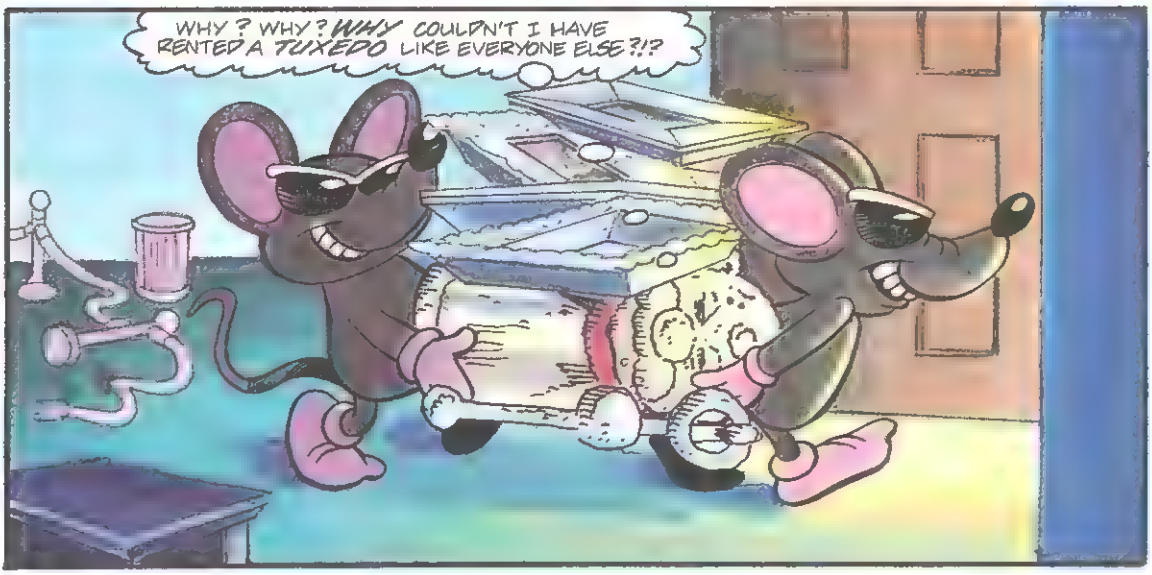
AS THE EVENING DRAWS TO A CLOSE...
GOODNIGHT, LUIGI! THANKS FOR COMING! TELL MARIO WE MISSED HIM!
OOOOS... I THINK I OVER-PARTIED!
SIGH! I WANT TO LEAVE. REALLY I DO!

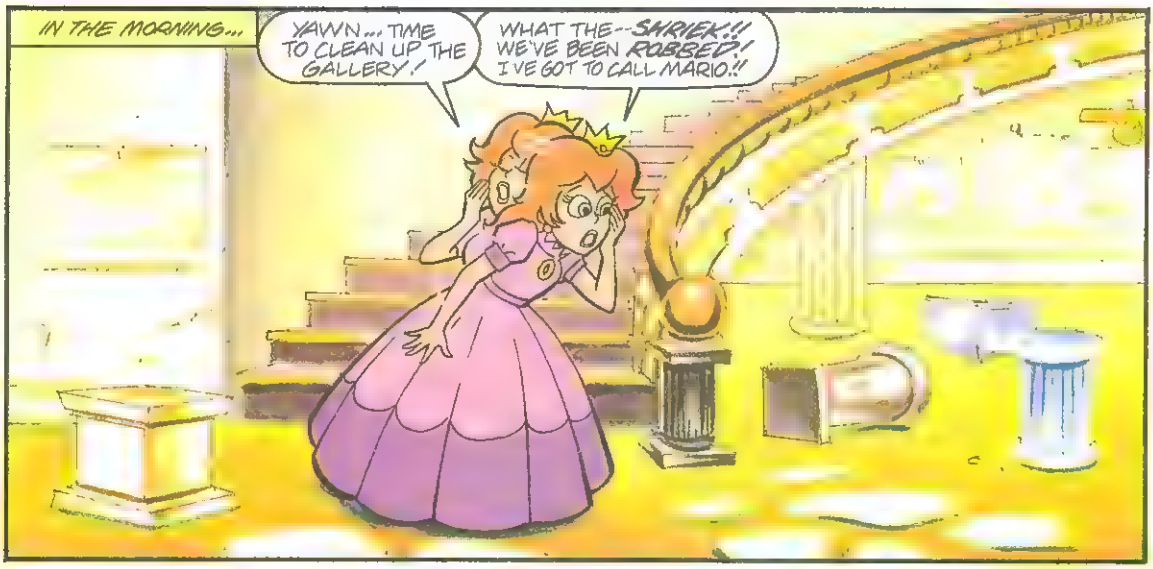

COME ON, DADDY! LET'S GO TO BED. WE CAN CLEAN UP IN THE MORNING...
NOT TO WORRY, KIDS-WE CAN CLEAN UP NOW! HEH! HEH!
YEAH! AFTER ALL, WHY WASTE TIME LOOKING AT ART...

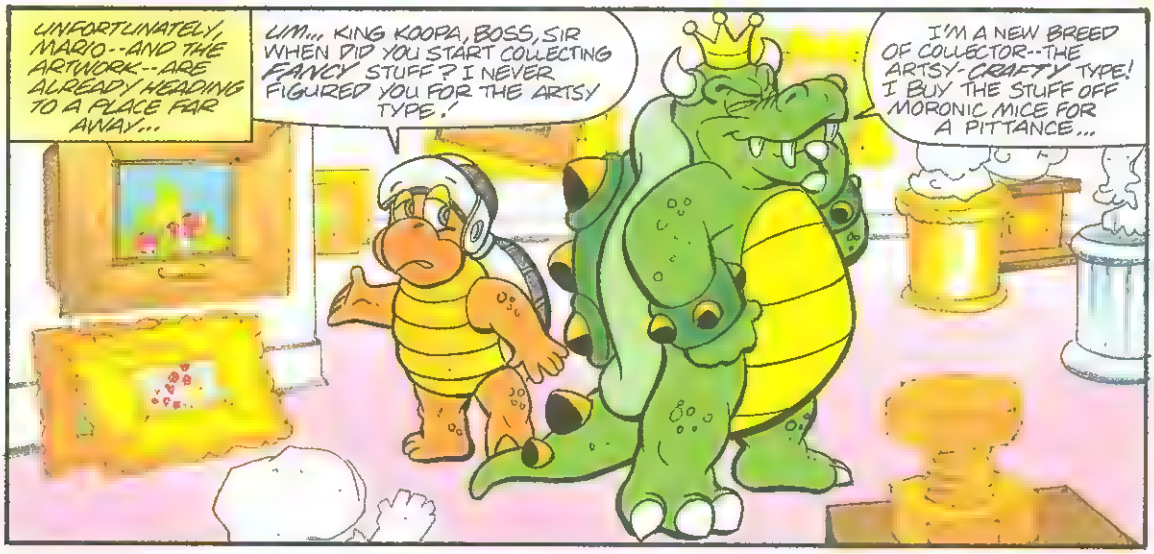
...WHEN YOU CAN STEAL IT, INSTEAD!
WHAT A HAUL! WE MOUSERS WILL GET EVERY MASTERPIECE IN MUSHROOMLAND!!


I DON'T KNOW... THIS STATUE DON'T LOOK LIKE NO MASTERPIECE TO ME!
THANKS A LOT.

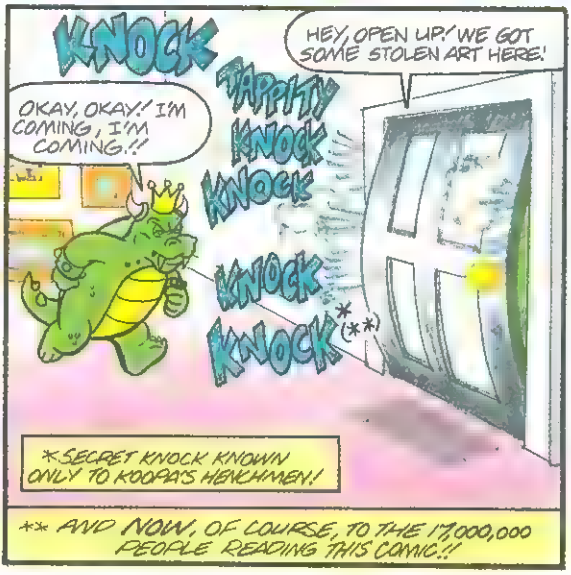

ARE YOU KIDDING? KING KOOPA WILL PAY DOUBLE FOR THIS. HE LOVES THE WEIRD STUFF!

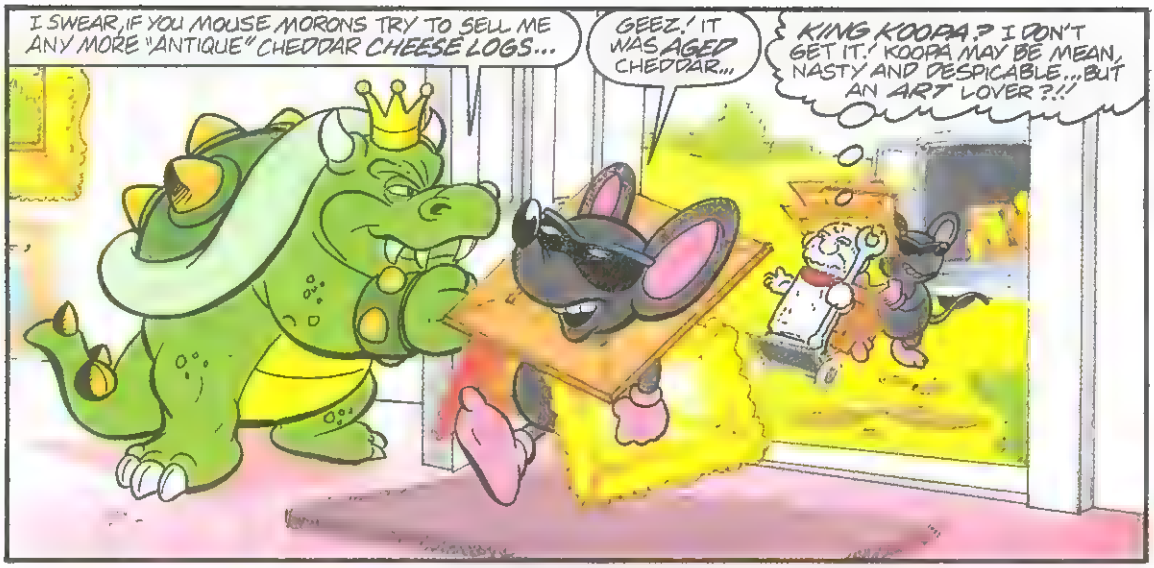

WHY? WHY? WHY COULDN'T I HAVE RENTED A TUXEDO LIKE EVERYONE ELSE?!?

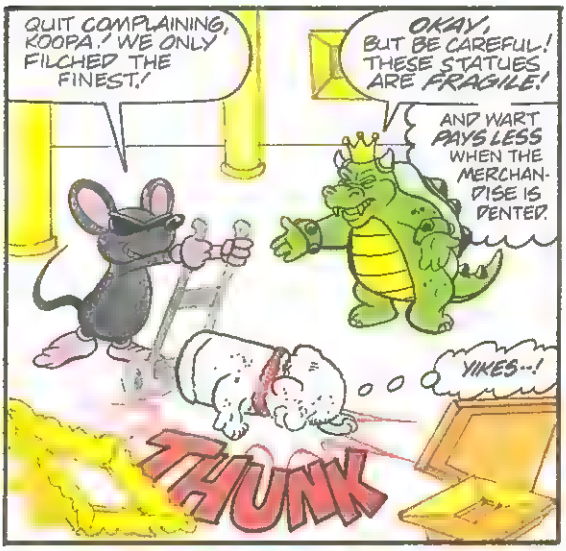

IN THE MORNING...
YAWN... TIME TO CLEAN UP THE GALLERY!
WHAT THE--SHRIEK!! WE'VE BEEN ROBBED! I'VE GOT TO CALL MARIO!!

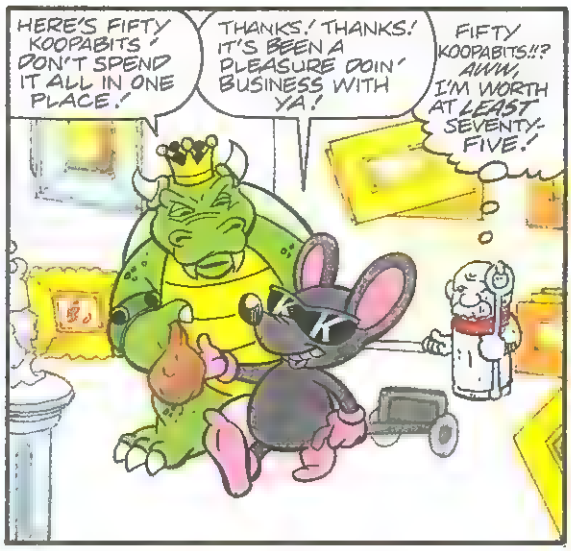

UNFORTUNATELY, MARIO--AND THE ARTWORK--ARE ALREADY HEADING TO A PLACE FAR AWAY...
UM... KING KOOPA, BOSS, SIR WHEN DID YOU START COLLECTING FANCY STUFF? I NEVER FIGURED YOU FOR THE ARTSY TYPE!
I'M A NEW BREED OF COLLECTOR--THE ARTSY-CRAFTY TYPE! I BUY THE STUFF OFF MORONIC MICE FOR A PITTANCE...

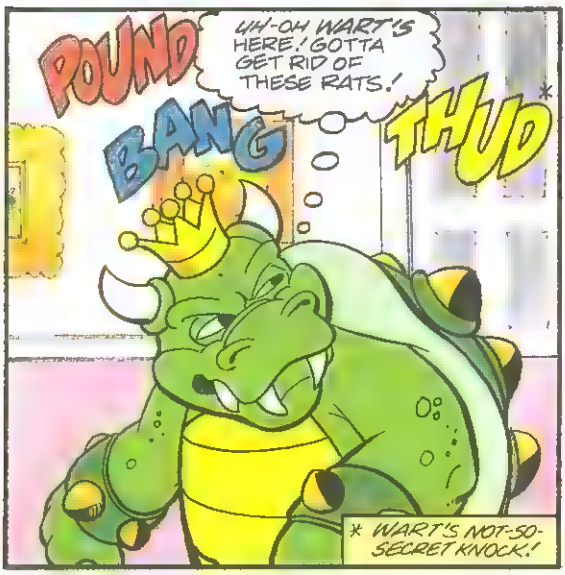
THEN I SELL IT TO WART, THE WITLESS WARLORD OF SUBCON, FOR A GIGANTIC PROFIT! WHATTA SCAM!


KNOCK
TAPPITY KNOCK KNOCK
KNOCK KNOCK*(**)
HEY, OPEN UP! WE GOT SOME STOLEN ART HERE!
OKAY, OKAY! I'M COMING, I'M COMING!!
*SECRET KNOCK KNOWN ONLY TO KOOPA'S HENCHMEN!
** AND NOW, OF COURSE, TO THE 17,000,000 PEOPLE READING THIS COMIC!!

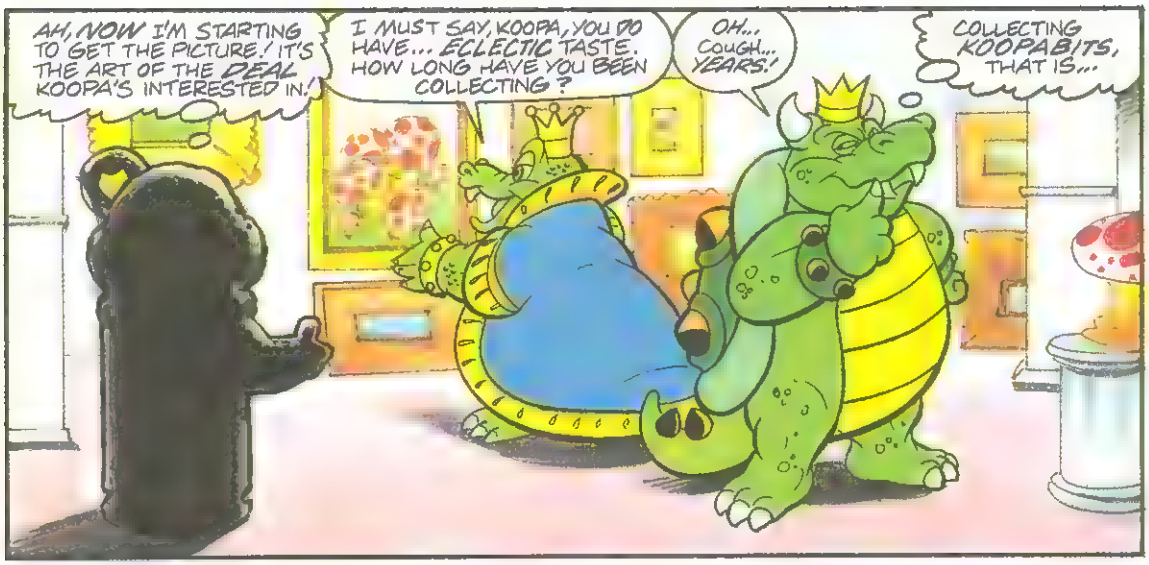

I SWEAR, IF YOU MOUSE MORONS TRY TO SELL ME ANY MORE "ANTIQUE" CHEDDAR CHEESE LOGS...
GEEZ.! IT WAS AGED CHEDDAR...
KING KOOPA.? I DON'T GET IT.! KOOPA MAY BE MEAN, NASTY AND DESPICABLE...BUT AN ART LOVER?!!

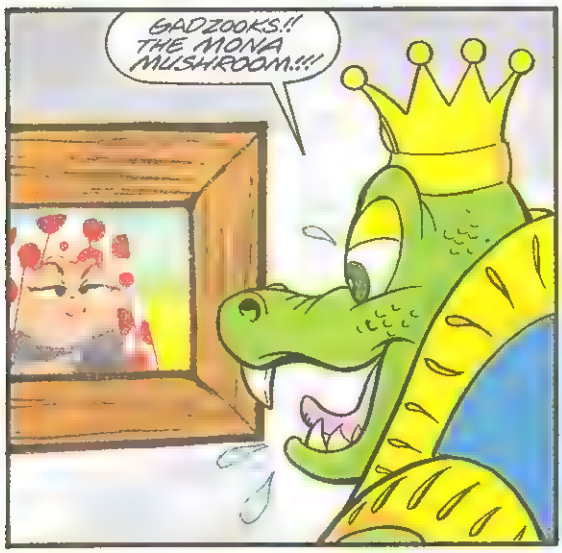

QUIT COMPLAINING, KOOPA.! WE ONLY FILCHED THE FINEST.!
OKAY, BUT BE CAREFUL! THESE STATUES ARE FRAGILE!
AND WART PAYS LESS WHEN THE MERCHANDISE IS DENTED.
YIKES--!
THUNK

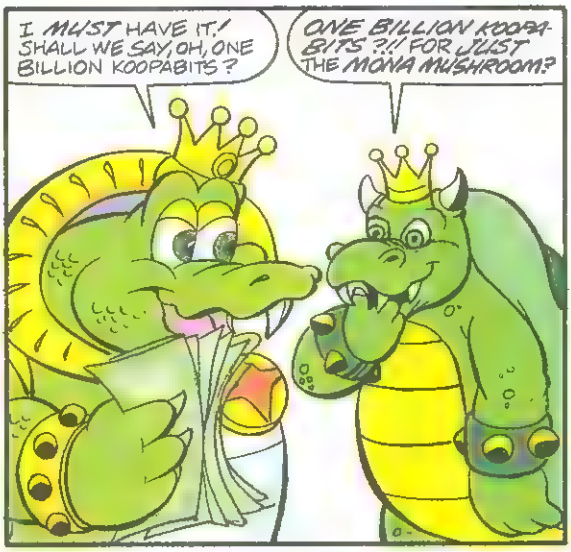

HERE'S FIFTY KOOPABITS.! DON'T SPEND IT ALL IN ONE PLACE.!
THANKS.! THANKS.! IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE DOIN' BUSINESS WITH YA.!
FIFTY KOOPABITS.!? AWW, I'M WORTH AT LEAST SEVENTY-FIVE.!


POUND
BANG
THUD*
UH-OH WART'S HERE.! GOTTA GET RID OF THESE RATS.!
* WART'S NOT-SO-SECRET KNOCK.!

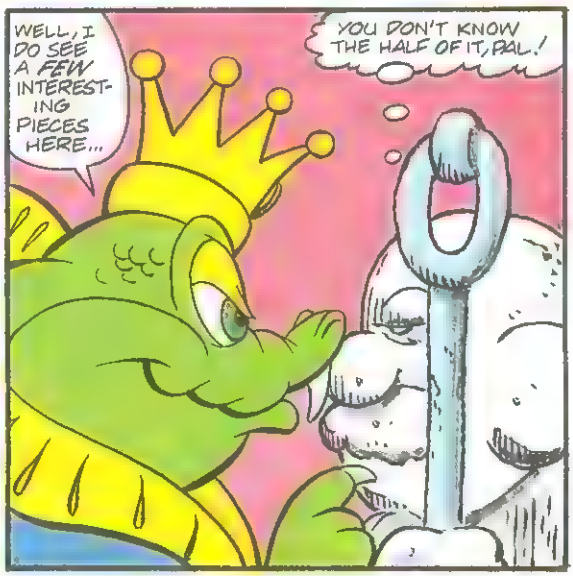
CHEESE IT.! THE COPS! GO OUT THE BACK WAY... I'LL COVER FOR YOU.!!
RIGHT-O.! WHO SAYS THERE AIN'T HONOR AMONG THIEVES?
HULLO, MY GOOD KOOPA? I HEAR THROUGH THE PIPELINE THAT YOU HAVE MORE ARTWORK FOR SALE.

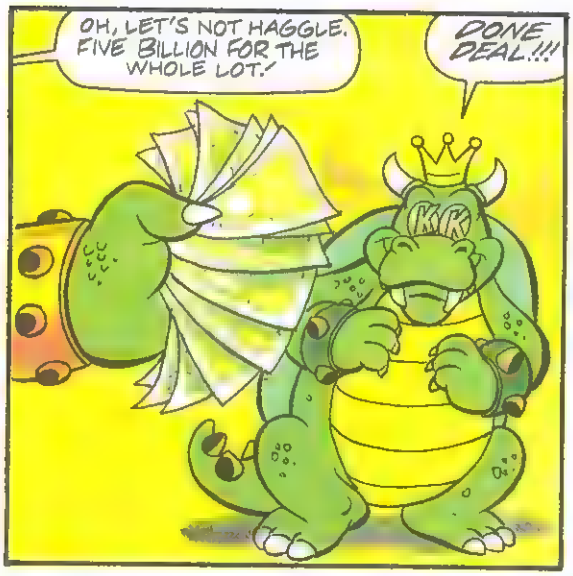

AH, NOW I'M STARTING TO GET THE PICTURE! IT'S THE ART OF THE DEAL KOOPA'S INTERESTED IN!
I MUST SAY, KOOPA, YOU DO HAVE... ECLECTIC TASTE. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN COLLECTING?
OH... COUGH... YEARS!
COLLECTING KOOPABITS, THAT IS...


GADZOOKS!! THE MONA MUSHROOM!!!


I MUST HAVE IT! SHALL WE SAY, OH, ONE BILLION KOOPABITS?
ONE BILLION KOOPA-BITS?!! FOR JUST THE MONA MUSHROOM?

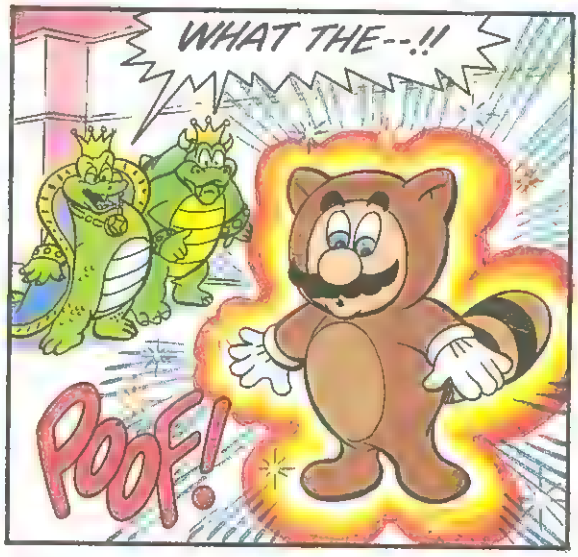
I MEAN, UH... I KINDA HATE TO BREAK UP THE COLLECTION...


WELL, I DO SEE A FEW INTEREST-ING PIECES HERE...
YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT, PAL!


OH, LET'S NOT HAGGLE. FIVE BILLION FOR THE WHOLE LOT.!
DONE DEAL.!!!

THIS IS TERRIBLE.! IF WART GETS HIS PAWS ON THIS COLLECTION, HE'LL WHISK IT AWAY TO SUBCON, THE LAND OF DREAMS.! THAT MEANS MUSHROOMLAND WILL LOSE ITS MASTERPIECES FOREVER.!
NOT TO MENTION ME.!

WELL, ENJOY YOUR NEW COLLECTION...
LI-FORKLIFT A DIVISION OF THE APOOK CORP
OH, DEAR! I WISH I COULD BE HUMAN AGAIN.!!!


WHAT THE--.!!
POOF!

GOOD GRIEF! YOU MEAN ALL THIS TIME ALL I HAD TO DO WAS WISH I WAS A HUMAN?
SAY... WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!!
HOMINA HOMINA...

I BETTER MAKE SOMETHING UP QUICKLY! HOPE HE BELIEVES ME!
I'LL EXPLAIN IT! UM... KOOPA WAS GOING TO CHEAT YOU. THESE AREN'T MASTERPIECES -- THEY'RE PRODUCTS OF THE APOOK CORPORATION! IN TEN MINUTES, EVERY PIECE WILL TURN BACK INTO WORTHLESS BRIC-A-BRAC.!!!

WHY, YOU BIG SWINDLER! GIVE ME THAT MONEY! AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, PUT UP YOUR DUKES!
DOES THAT MEAN NO KOOPABITS AT ALL? HOW ABOUT A RENTAL DEAL?
SNATCH!

GREAT! THEY'RE CREATING THEIR OWN DIVERSION! NOW TO TAKE THIS ART BACK WHERE IT BELONGS...
Y'KNOW, THAT BIG RACCOON LOOKS AWFULLY FAMILIAR...
OUCH
OUCH
GRRR
KRASH
GRR

AND, SO...
OH, MARIO! I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DID IT--BUT THANK YOU! YOU'VE BROUGHT BACK EVERY PIECE OF ART THAT KOOPA'S HENCHMEN TOOK...

...EXCEPT THAT FUNNY LOOKING STATUE THAT WAS STANDING HERE...
OH, DON'T WORRY! I HAVE A FEELING IT'LL TURN UP AGAIN... SOMEDAY!
TANOOKI MADE
GAME OVER

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